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RASIA

ONE... TWO...
THREE... FOUR!!
IT'S NIGHT EXILE'S
4TH ANNIVERSARY!!

WOW, TIME
DOES FLY!
A BIG THANK
YOU TO OUR
BELOVED STAFF!
*HUGS AND
CHUS*

ASUKA COMICS DX

As You Like It

お気に召すまま

おきにめすまま

②

秋乃茉莉

あきの まつり

ASUKA COMICS DX

お気に召すまま②

秋乃茉莉

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At Her Majesty the Queen's command, a company called "The Queen's Glove" patrols the various territories of Britain, but through some strange twist of fate, they've been mistaken for a group of robbers ?!

It'll be an eventful and legendary adventure for love-struck Princess Jacqueline!!

Akino Matsuri Profile

Born July 7th
Grew up in Tokyo, but now living in Yokohama.

Night Exile
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Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

by Akino Matsuri

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~NOTE (pg 48) ~

Bassanio and Portia are the main couple in The Merchant of Venice for those of you fortunate enough not to have seen Al Pacino's abysmal movie re-imagining, the plot is that Portia is a wealthy heiress Bassanio is in love with her, but doesn't have any money to woo her His friend Antiono suggests he gets a loan in Antiono's name from one if the city's money lenders Why exactly Antiono thinks this is a good plan is anyone's guess as he has offended all the money lenders in the city The two get the loan from Shylock, a particularly mean and bitter money leander Shylock offers the loan at no interest, but demands a pound of Antiono's flesh as collateral Bassanio goes to Portia's estate and the two fall in love Portia's father either had way too much time on his hands, or went senile as in his will he stated that the only man who could marry Portia had to choose the "correct" casket among three choices Well, Bassanio picks correctly and he and Portia get married and she gives him a ring that she makes him promise never to part with In the meantime, Antiono can't repay the loan, so Shylock decides it's time to get his pound of flesh Portia disguises herself as a judge and legaleses Shylock out of his pound of flesh Antiono then demands that Shylock renounce Judaism and convert to Christianity, which is why no school is allowed to teach the play, but don't get me started on that one Anyway, after Portia gets Antiono off, she talks Bassanio into giving her back the ring he promised never to part with When Bassanio returns to Portia's estate, she (back in her own persona) accuses him of giving the ring to another woman After she has him going on this, she reveals what really happened and they make up If I had to guess, I'd say that the scene we're seeing is right after Portia let Bassanio in on the joke.

~Emily

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秋乃茉莉（あきのまつり）

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"Through the Wild Terrifying Forest of A Summer Night's Dream, one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies, is called A Midsummer Night's Dream in Emily

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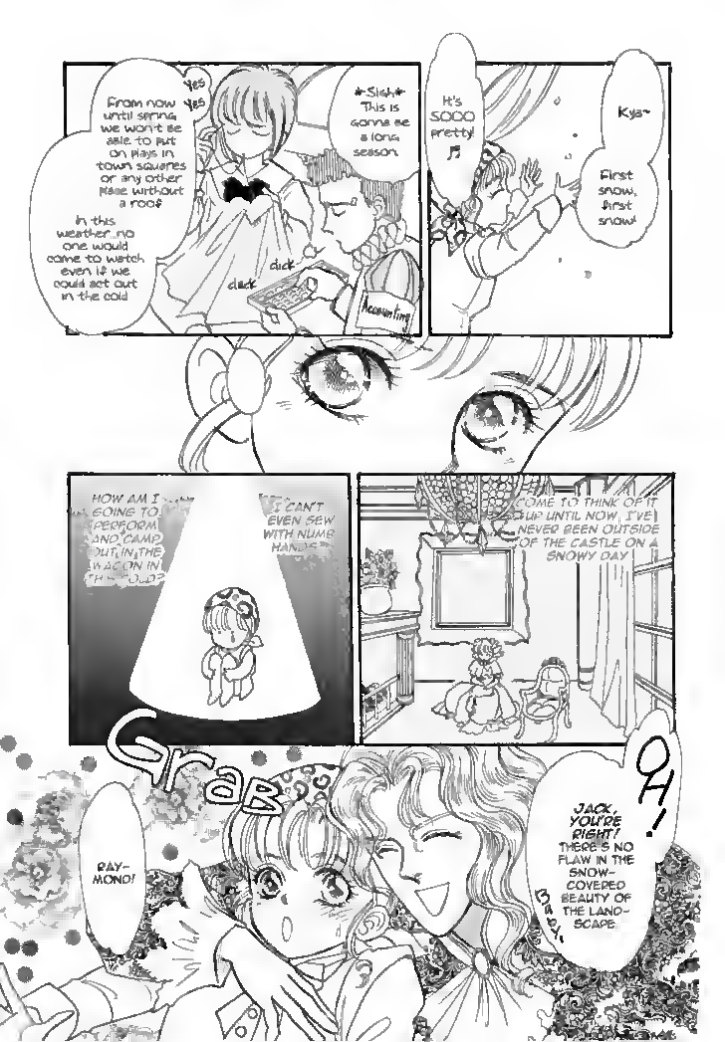
【 Act 5 】
Gypsies and Thieves

AAAAH
AAAAH

WAIT, PLEASE!
IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!
JUST SPARE MY LIFE!
SPARE MY LIFE!
SLASH
SLASH

Yeah ...
it's snowing! ♡


Yes
Yes
From now until spring, we won't be able to put on plays in town squares or any other place without a roof
In this weather, no one would come to watch, even if we could act out in the cold
Sigh
This is gonna be a long season
duck
duck
Accounting
It's SOOO pretty
Kya~
First snow, first snow!
HOW AM I GOING TO PERFORM AND CAMP OUT IN THE WAGON IN THE COLD?
I CAN'T EVEN SEW WITH NUMB HANDS
COME TO THINK OF IT, UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE ON A SNOWY DAY
Grab
RAY-MOND!
OH!
JACK, YOU'RE RIGHT! THERE'S NO FLAW IN THE SNOW-COVERED BEAUTY OF THE LAND-SCAPE.
(SIGH)

Yes, and don't forget singing and dancing.
I rather have great food than a good wine.
You always say that no matter what time of year it is.
THE BEAUTY OF A WINTERY LAND-SCAPE,
A FINE WINE,
AND THE SWEET WARMTH OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THESE, EVEN A WINTERY JOURNEY CAN BE HEAVENLY
NO MATTER HOW ROUGH THE TRIP AS LONG AS I'M WITH THESE PEOPLE, I'M SURE IT'LL TURN OUT TO BE FUN IN THE END.
#night_exile(I_ruling_the_night)

AND I'LL DO MY BEST,
BECAUSE THIS TIME, I'LL BE THE BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS FOR SURE!
SO, IT'S FINALLY STARTED TO SNOW
IF I DON'T CATCH UP WITH THE 'GLOVE' TROUPE SOON...
I WASN'T EVEN IN ONE SCENE IN THE LAST STORY

AND THE LAST LITTLE TOUCH IS...

AND IF I DON'T GET PRINCESS JACQUELINE BACK TO THE CASTLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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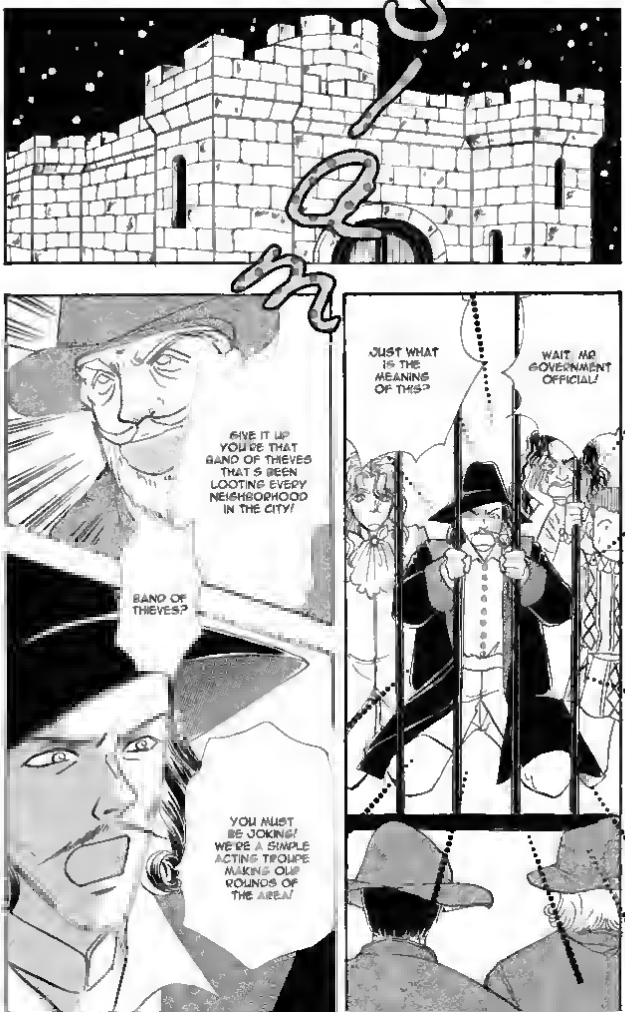
A KNIFE...?
OR WHAT ABOUT POISON?
NO, POISON'S NO GOOD.
I USED THAT JUST THE OTHER DAY
Yeah, poison's gettin' kinda old.
What about a nice strangulation, that always works.
NO! Everyone knows that bloodshed needs at least 5 or 6 people involved to have any impact!


SIGH
GIVE IT UP YOU'RE THAT BAND OF THIEVES THAT'S BEEN LOOTING EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY!
BAND OF THIEVES?
YOU MUST BE JOKING! WE'RE A SIMPLE ACTING TROUPE MAKING OUR ROUNDS OF THE AREA!
JUST WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
WAIT, NO GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT I EXAMINED YOUR WAGON AND PULLED OUT A SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING BLACK CLOAK A SWORD, AND GUNPOWDER ONE AFTER THE OTHER
THOSE ARE ALL JUST LITTLE TOOLS OF THE TRADE FOR OUR PLAYS
SILENCE! WHY WOULD A "SIMPLE ACTING TROUPE" HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT MURDER METHODS JUST NOW?
THAT... THAT WAS JUST A BRAIN-STORMING SESSION FOR PLOTS
I HEARD YOU IN THE INN
ACCORDING TO THE TESTIMONY OF AN EYEWITNESS TO THE INCIDENT...
WE'VE LEARNED THAT LAST NIGHT THIS TOWN'S PREEMINENT PAWNBROKER WAS ROBBED OF ALL HIS PROPERTY AND HIS MANSION WAS SET ON FIRE
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME
EH?
AND EACH HAD THAT WHICH BECOMES A MAN"
"THEY HAD WONDERFUL TEAMWORK
REALLY...?
AND WERE PROFICIENT IN SWORDPLAY"
"ALL THE PERPETRATORS WERE LIGHT ON THEIR FEET

Yesss
That's me!
That's me
Auntie Rose
Well, I don't know that I'd go THAT far...
"THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE GROUP WAS THE LEADER OF THE BANDITS SHE WAS A BEAUTY WITHOUT PEER"
Mmgm
YOU'VE JUST ADMITTED TO BEING THE BAND OF THIEVES!
RIGHT THERE!
Although, there's a bit of a discrepancy in the testimony.
ALTHOUGH SHOWING OUR TRUMP CARD HERE
IS A BIT LIKE MITO KOUMON REVEALING HIS TRUE IDENTITY AT 8 10.
Mum We have no choice.
Boss what're we going to do?
16

● Mito Koumon was a retired daimyo (ruler of a region) in the 1690's who would travel around in disguise uncovering injustices. When revealed who he really was, letting his authority do the rest. And Mr. Mito Koumon drama ran from 8:00 to 10:00 so 8:10 would be staggeringly early for any sort of dramatic climax. Ack! - Rachika

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS GLOVE!!
TAKE THAT!
THIS GLOVE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HERSELF, SHE HAS ITS TWIN!
WE'RE SECRET AGENTS OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT MAKING A JOURNEY AROUND THE COUNTRY BY THE ROYAL DECREE OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN!

HUH?
SMACK
O...
OBJECTION! THIS TACKY GLOVE PROVES NOTHING!
STOMP
BESIDES, THE ONLY THING YOU COULD DO WITH A GLOVE LIKE THIS IS USE IT AS A POTHOLDER
WITH GLASS BEADS THIS GAUDY, EVEN A CHILD COULD TELL THIS GLOVE IS A FAKE
IT'S NO GOOD! THIS BUMPKIN OF AN OFFICIAL ISN'T GOING TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING WE SAY
WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Those are
real jewels!

Huh?
He bought us for 37 pounds
THIS OLD GUY JUST BOUGHT US IN THE LAST VILLAGE TO BE HIS SERVANTS
SO, YOU SEE WE HAVE NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THESE PEOPLE
Shh!
YES, WHAT IS IT, KID?
If you're going to betray the boss leave me out of it!
Wait a second Mam'sowe!
MR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, SIR?
Thank you very much!
ALL RIGHT, THE TWO OF YOU ARE FREE TO GO
WELL, WE CAN'T SEND KIDS AS YOUNG AS YOU TO JAIL.
Why you little...! Have you forgotten everything I've done for you?
UMM...

OH, YOU POOR THING!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU.
It's true. They even got a three pound discount.
YOU BOYS WERE TRICKED AND SOLD
OH, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
Y...
YEAH...
YES, I'M SO GLAD THEY WERE CAUGHT
I KNOW I SLEEP MORE SOUNDLY KNOWING THOSE THIEVES ARE LOCKED UP
BUT NOW THAT THOSE SCOUNDRELS HAVE BEEN CAUGHT, YOU TWO CAN RETURN HOME
THEY AREN'T THE CULPRITS!!
YOU'RE WRONG!!

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THE BOSS AND EVERYONE WILL GET OUT SOON
HOW?
DON'T WORRY, JACK
EH?
AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, OUR TROUPE'S INNOCENCE WILL BE PROVEN
THE REAL THIEVES ARE STILL ON THE LOOSE. SO IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THERE'S ANOTHER ROBBERY
OH, I GET IT!
THAT'S NO GOOD, MARLOWE
WHAT ...?

THAT'S UNFORGIVABLE!!
WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE IN THIS TOWN TO BECOME A VICTIM.
JACK.
Umm
BUT WHAT CAN JUST THE TWO OF US DO ?
THE QUEEN'S GLOVE DIDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE OFFICIALS
AND THEN CATCH THE REAL THIEVES!
SOMEHOW, WE'VE GOT TO GET EVERYONE OUT OF JAIL

"I must say, if I were a government official, and someone pulled out a glove to try to prove who they were I'd probably laugh them accept the dual." - Emily

Looks like I don't have a choice.
stand up
?
I WANTED TO KEEP THIS A SECRET UNTIL THE VERY END...
sigh
BUT THIS IS TO SAVE EVERYONE!!
WOOSH
The person you have come to know as the world-famous female impersonator Jack...
self-proclaimed
WHAT?
is in reality the Duke of Havest's only daughter, Jacqueline!!

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WELL...
AT LEAST THE LIE IS A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING THIS TIME
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THEIR STORY THIS TIME?
WA HA HA HA!
wha- whaddya mean!?
wha-
How-
I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF YOU TWO REALLY ARE PART OF THE BAND OF THIEVES
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? ARE YOU MOVED BY THIS LITTLE FLIGHT OF FANCY?
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I REALLY AM THE QUEEN'S NIECE, JACQUELINE?!?
HOW UNCOUTH!
Jack
Give it up
stomp stomp stomp
WE'VE BEEN TRAVELING AROUND TO VARIOUS VILLAGES STARTING WITH THE DUKE OF HAVEST'S CASTLE! YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE US!!
NO, IT'S TRUE! WE REALLY ARE A GROUP OF ACTORS!

EVEN THOUGH I'M TELLING YOU TO YOUR FACE THAT I'M THE DUKE'S DAUGHTER.
YOU'RE SAYING YOU'D BELIEVE SOME LITTLE THING LIKE A LETTER, BUT NOT ME?
IF YOU HAD A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION OR SOMETHING IN THE DUKE'S HANDWRITING OR WITH HIS SEAL, *
I MIGHT BELIEVE YOU ARE WHO YOU CLAIM TO BE
A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM FATHER?
HUM...
IS THAT SO?
WAIT A MINUTE...
THE NOBLEMAN CLOSEST TO THIS VILLAGE IS BARON RIKER. WHAT IF WE HAD A LETTER FROM HIM?
AND IF I GO BACK NOW...
I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO SNEAK OUT OF THE CASTLE A SECOND TIME.
BUT IT'LL TAKE US THREE WEEKS TO GET TO HAVEST AND BACK FROM HERE.

*In medieval times authorship was more often proven by seals than handwriting. – Emily

SEE? I TOLD them they needed something more official looking than a girl! – Emily

*And if you DON'T go back now, the group'll be in jail and you STILL won't be in place. Good to see the girl is thinking rationally. – Emily

YES!! WE HAD A SHOW IN THE BARON'S TERRITORY JUST A FEW DAYS AGO!
BARON RIKER AND HIS WIFE AUDREY CAN VOUCH FOR OUR IDENTITIES!!
BARON RIKER... YOU MEAN THAT WEIRD GUY WHO LIVES IN THE ROSE-COVERED MANSION?
...
HEY, BOSS
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK TO LET THEM GO. THEY MIGHT HAVE MADE THE WHOLE THING UP TO GET A CHANCE TO ESCAPE
ALL RIGHT YOU TWO CAN GO
WE'RE NOT GOING TO ESCAPE!!
WE'LL DEFINITELY COME BACK!!
WE'LL GET YOU THE LETTER IN HIS OWN HAND!
WE CAN GET TO RIKER'S TERRITORY AND BACK IN THREE DAYS.

YOU HAD BETTER BE...
BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT BACK IN THREE DAYS...
WE'RE GOING TO HANG EVERY OTHER MEMBER OF YOUR "TROUPE"!! DO YOU UNDERSTAND!?

WHAT IS THIS!? IN THIS SNOW, WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT THERE AND BACK IN JUST 3 DAYS...
JACK QUIT COMPLAINING AND KEEP WALKING!!
STUPID SNOW
STUPID SNOW
I HATE YOU SO MUCH!

THREE DAYS?
AT NOON IN THREE DAYS, YOU'RE ALL SCHEDULED TO BE HUNG IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE
HUNG !?
HEY, JAILER-MAN!
WE NEED SOME WATER IN HERE!
QUIT YOUR WHINING YOU'LL ONLY HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IT FOR THREE MORE DAYS
Honestly it's like a sad Turkish bath in here!
MARLOWE AND JACK DID WHAT !?
THE KIDDIES WENT OFF TO BARON RIKER'S TO TRY TO GET YOU ALL PARDONED. BUT I WONDER IF THEY'LL MAKE IT BACK IN TIME
Now come on, it's time to rehearse! Rehearse!
CLAP CLAP
What do you people have a problem with that!?
THREE DAYS HUH?
THAT'LL GIVE ME JUST ENOUGH TIME TO FINISH MY NEW WORK
Boss, how can you think of plays at a time like this?

Crunch
Ugh.
We've been walking for two whole days
It's cold
And I'm hungry
I CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING ANYMORE...
WOOSH
HEY JACK!?
JACK, GET UP!
I CAN'T.
JACK!?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOYS?
WOOSH

HERE YOU ARE.
SO THAT'S THE STORY... WELL, GETTING TO THE NEIGHBORING TERRITORY IN THIS SNOW IS GOING TO BE HARD...

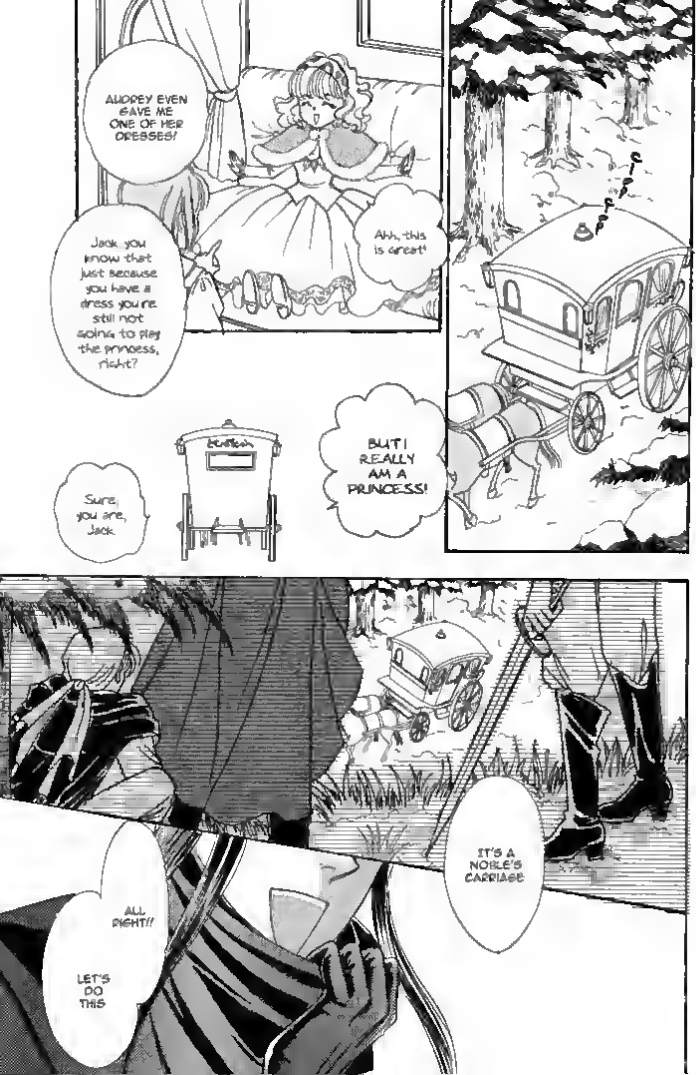
Fu~~
I'm revived!
DON'T HESITATE
DRINK UP
WHAT A NICE PERSON!
AND SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

THOSE LIGHTS OVER THERE ARE THE BARON'S VILLAGE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON YOUR OWN.
WE'VE TAKEN YOU HALF-WAY TO YOUR DESTINATION.
SO WE'RE GOING TO HEAD SOUTH.
BUT THE COLD IS OUR ENEMY,
WE ARE WHAT WE APPEAR TO BE, A TRAVELING BAND OF GYPSIES
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR JOURNEY, BOYS!
I'm so touched by their generosity!
If we stay here much longer I'm gonna freeze like this.

http://www.nightsidepictures

OH, MY! JACK!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU TO GET HERE
I'LL WRITE THE LETTER YOU NEED RIGHT AWAY
Thank you so much, Baron Ruker
NO. THIS IS THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR US
At least they'll be together
Looks like he hasn't changed a bit

With F. I don't want to know what you're doing dressed up in a witch doctor suit! Is there a bow on the skull? Does it's main OWN ANY normal clothes?!?"-Emily


AUDREY EVEN GAVE ME ONE OF HER DRESSES!
Jack, you know that just because you have a dress you're still not going to play the princess, right?
Ahh, this is great!
CLIP CLOP
BUT I REALLY AM A PRINCESS!
Sure, you are, Jack.
IT'S A NOBLE'S CARRIAGE
ALL RIGHT!!
LET'S DO THIS

WHINNY
SCRUNCH
FWISH
FWISH
WHAM
EEK!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, HAND OVER ALL YOUR MONEY TO ME NOW!
BAM
A ROBBER!?

!?
THAT...
VOICE...
YOU TWO ARE...
THE BOYS FROM LAST NIGHT!?
YOU'RE THE GYPSY WOMAN WHO SAVED US!!

W-WHY ?
YOU'RE SHILLS FOR THE NOBLE PIGS AND GREEDY MERCHANTS WHO HAVE GROWN RICH OFF THE SWEAT AND BLOOD OF THE FARMERS.
WHY ARE YOU ROBBING PEOPLE!?
ALL I'M DOING IS TAKING BACK THE MONEY THAT SHOULD HAVE GONE TO THE FARMERS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT!?
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS THAT OUR ENTIRE TROOP IS IN JAIL RIGHT NOW!
TO CLEAR OUR NAMES, WE'RE TAKING YOU BACK TO THE VILLAGE BY FORCE IF NECESSARY!
#night_owl@anarchyworld.net

EN GARDE!
I'M READY FOR YOU!
grab
MAR-LOWE!?
OH, FEELING BRAVE ARE WE BOY?
INTERESTING, LET'S SEE IF YOUR SKILL CAN MEASURE UP TO YOUR WORDS!
YOU TWO'D BETTER NOT LAY A FINGER ON HER!
BOSS!
BUT IF I DO THAT, YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE AGAINST THEM!!
I CAN'T DO THAT!!
Jack take the carriage and go now!
You're the one who needs to deliver the letter
WHAT!?

HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE, JACK!!
YOU HAVE TO SAVE EVERYONE!!
MARLOWE !?
PRINCESS !?
ANDREW !!
A HORSE ?
clop clop clop
clop clop
clop clop
!?

WHOOSH
TCH...
A NEW FIGHTER?
BOSS!?
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL JUST TAKE OUR LEAVE FOR NOW
OH, AND I'LL BE TAKING YOUR HORSE WITH ME!
SO LONG, BOYS!

PRIN-CESS!
ARE YOU HURT!?
ANDREW
Phew, got out of that one by the skin of my teeth.
I'M SORRY, IF I HAD GOTTEN HERE A LITTLE EARLIER
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A ROUGH TIME...
ANDREW

MAR-LOWE!?
ARE YOU OK TOO!?
EH? YEAH
THIS IS NO TIME TO CRY!!
Sniff Sniff
PRINCESS!?
I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT
YOU MUST RETURN TO THE CASTLE IMMEDIATELY, YOUR FATHER IS..
THEN WE NEED TO HURRY BACK TO TOWN!
RIGHT

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AH...
PRINCESS !?
ANDREW, I'M BORROWING YOUR HORSE!
Get on, Marlowe.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW!
clop
clop
clop
clop
PRINCESS JACQUELINE...

HURRY!
HURRY!!
WE DIDN'T COUNT ON THAT LITTLE SPOT OF TROUBLE
HURRY !!
AH!
IS THAT THE MID-DAY BELL !?

ARE WE TOO LATE!?
RAY-MOND..
AUNTIE ROSE..
BOSS !!
EVERY ONE

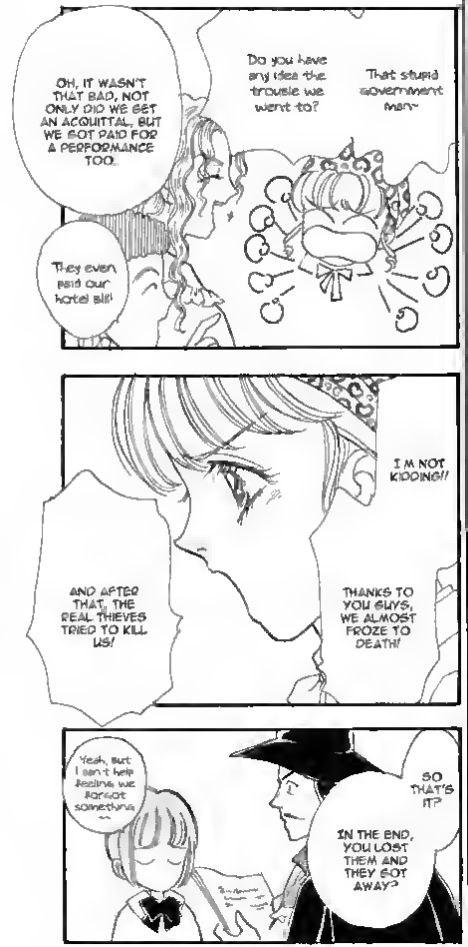
Hehehe
Hahahaha
...
Ugh!
Ugh!
Ugh!
Ugh!
Ugh!

OH, BASSANIO, IF IT IS FOR YOUR SAKE, I'LL BECOME 1,000 TIMES AS BEAUTIFUL AS I AM NOW!
OH, MY BEAUTIFUL PORTIA, IS IT REALLY YOU?
O ho ho ho
wa ha ha ha ha
IT'S ALREADY NOON, BUT—
WHAT IN THE WORLD...!?
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE!?
AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE JUST ABOUT TO HANG US, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU TWO GOT HERE
BOSS!?
OH! YOU TWO ARE LATE

AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S A BIG HIT.
AND WE'VE BEEN DOING REQUESTS SINCE THEN
WELL, THEY REALLY WERE GOING TO EXECUTE US IN FRONT OF EVERYONE HERE,
BUT AS A LAST REQUEST I ASKED THAT WE BE ALLOWED TO PUT ON A PLAY
WELL, THEY SAY THAT ART CAN SAVE YOUR SOUL.
PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?
Ha hahaha ha
Y yes, quite good~~
HEY!
This is the letter from Baron Riker
WHAT ?
OH!!
OH, ME GOVERN-MENT OFFICIAL!

I'VE DECIDED THAT YOU ALL REALLY ARE AN ACTING TROUPE
WELL, AFTER SEEING THIS GREAT PLAY,
IN FACT, I'D SAY THAT YOU'RE PROBABLY THE BEST TROUPE IN ALL OF ENGLAND
DO TIOUS ANDRONI-CUS!!
TO
AH, I DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE
What?

Cat got your tongue?


OH, IT WASN'T THAT BAD, NOT ONLY DID WE GET AN ACQUITTAL, BUT WE GOT PAID FOR A PERFORMANCE TOO.
They even paid our hotel bill!
Do you have any idea the trouble we went to?
That stupid government man~
I'M NOT KIDDING!!
AND AFTER THAT, THE REAL THIEVES TRIED TO KILL US!
THANKS TO YOU GUYS, WE ALMOST FROZE TO DEATH!
Yeah, but I can't help feeling we forgot something ~~
SO THAT'S IT?
IN THE END, YOU LOST THEM AND THEY GOT AWAY?
MEANIE
MEANIE
MEEEEANIE!

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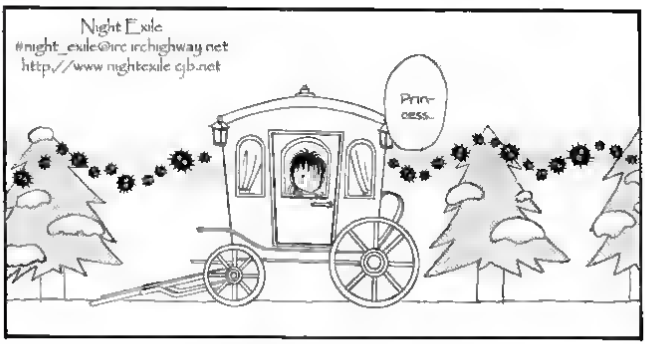
WHAT'S WRONG, JACK?
...
I'LL PUT THAT IN MY REPORT AND LET LONDON HANDLE THE REST
CHIRP CHIRP
SO THE WOMAN LEADER HAS HER BAND OF THIEVES DISGUISED AS A GROUP OF GYPSIES
AND YET
NOBLE PIGS!
AT THAT TIME HER EYES WERE THOSE OF A DIFFERENT PERSON'S
THEY WERE A GROUP OF GOOD PEOPLE...
SHE WAS SO KIND
THE WOMAN WHO SAVED US THAT DAY IN THE SNOW...

AND..
THE TOMBOY IN ME THAT'S JACK
I WONDER WHICH OF THEM WAS THE REAL ONE
AND THE GIRL IN ME THAT'S JACQUELINE
WHICH ONE OF THEM IS THE REAL ME?
THAT, JACK IS UP TO YOU.
BOSS ?

LIFE IS REALLY LIKE A PLAY, YOU KNOW.
TIMES AND CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, AND PEOPLE HAVE TO FOLLOW ALONG AND CHANGE WITH THEM.
HMM ?
SPEAKING OF "FOLLOWING" I HAVE THE FEELING THAT WE FORGOT SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT...
CLATTER
CLATTER
AH, FORGET IT
I THINK I GET IT
EH !? SO, YOU'RE SAYING THEY'RE BOTH FAKES !?



Chapter 4 ◆ End

Intermission · I

Night Exile
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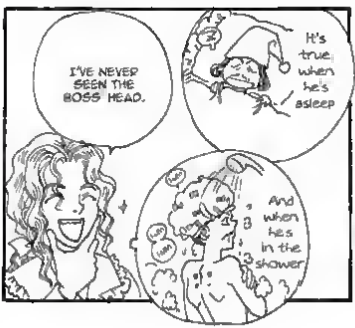
CLANG
Whoa!
Surprise
Surprise
If you're not gonna to do it right don't bother doing it at all!
WRONG, WRONG, WRONG! YOU'RE NOT PUTTING ANY FEELING INTO YOUR LINES!
I THINK SO
I CAN'T REMEMBER EVER SEEING HIM WITHOUT IT
PSST, MARLOWE, DOES THE BOSS ALWAYS WEAR THAT HAT?



I'VE GOT TO SEE UNDER THE HAT, NO MATTER WHAT!
Ah- The boss is dozing off!
Now's our chance!
Hey over here!
Shh
I am SEE YOUUU
Who?
TRULY, THE BOSS IS A MAN OF MANY MYSTERIES.

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Happy Birthday, Quethiril!!

Awww, doesn't he make such a better gift dressed as a guy? XD

Best wishes, hugs and kisses?? XD

~Night Exile~

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ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR!! IT'S NIGHT EXILE'S 4TH ANNIVERSARY!!

WOW, TIME DOES FLY! A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR BELOVED STAFF! *HUGS AND CHUS*

Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

by Akino Matsuri

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~NOTE (pg 71) ~

"Oedipus Rex," written by Sophocles, is one of the greatest works in dramatic irony. It tells the latter part of the story of Oedipus. For those of you less versed in Greek mythology, a brief summary. Oedipus is the son of the King of Thebes. Before he was born, his father went to an oracle (a woman with the gift of prophecy) who foretold that the son would grow up to kill his father and marry his mother. In an attempt to cheat destiny, the King took the baby and abandoned him in a field under the amazing logic of "It wasn't me that killed him, it was the field!" This is similar to the story of Paris, who also had a prophecy of destruction surrounding his birth and was left to die in a field, which is probably how we get from Brad Pitt to Freud. Fortunately(?) for Oedipus, he was found by a shepherd. The shepherd and his wife raised Oedipus as their son. One day, Oedipus heard the prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother. Thinking the shepherd and his wife were his parents, Oedipus decided to leave and try and cheat fate (like father, like son, eh?) Anyway, on his wanderings, Oedipus comes to a crossroads (symbolic of danger, don't ask) and, in an early case of road rage, kills an old man in an argument. At the risk of stating the obvious, that old man was his father. Well, after that slight case of third-degree murder, Oedipus continues his walkabout and comes along the Sphinx. In case you haven't read Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire the Sphinx is a creature with the body of a lion, wings of an eagle, and face of a woman that asks riddles. If you get the riddle wrong, the Sphinx kills you, and if you don't answer, she kills you too. Well, Oedipus answers the riddle right and the Sphinx kills herself. After that, Oedipus arrives in Thebes and, out of gratitude, the citizens decide to make him their new king (their previous king was tragically killed at a crossroads by someone with anger management issues). Part of the "king" deal was getting to marry the queen, who had a magic necklace that made her young and beautiful for as long as she lived. Oedipus thinks this is a pretty sweet deal and takes them up on it. The play "Oedipus Rex" picks up some years after these events when a mysterious plague has stricken Thebes, caused by the unsolved murder of the previous king.

-Emily

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THE QUEEN'S GLOVE
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[Act Five] Noble of the Amphitheatre

TODAY, THE QUEEN'S GLOVE ACTING TROUPE IS TRAVELING, AND AS SUCH IS TAKING A BREAK FROM PERFORMING
WOW, AMAZING!

Unless "The Queen's Glove" left England without me not one thing is the way this is a Greek amphitheatre As England (Brittania) was a Roman colony before the Empire collapsed I could be a Roman now, and as Rome copied almost everything from Greece, this would explain the similar styles - Emily

I DOUBT ANY SPECTATORS WOULD COME.
THIS AREA WAS FAIRLY RICH WHEN THIS THEATRE WAS BUILT, BUT IT'S JUST A SMALL FISHING VILLAGE NOW.

REALLY? I WISH WE COULD PUT ON A PLAY ON THIS STAGE
THESE ARE THE RUINS OF AN ANCIENT GREEK OR ROMAN* AMPHITHEATRE
I BET WE COULD FIT 1,000 PEOPLE IN THESE SEATS

IS IT THE SAME AS AUDIENCES NOW?
WHAT MADE THEM CRY?
WHAT MADE THE AUDIENCE LAUGH?
WHAT KINDS OF PLAYS DID THE ACTORS OF 1,000 YEARS AGO PERFORM?
But just standing here makes me wonder...
WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO HAVE LIVED IN THE TIMES WHEN THESE RUINS WERE A BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL?

No Marlowe does not believe Jacqueline is a princess, he is reciting lines from this chapter's play "Troilus and Cressida" - Emily
OH,
TROJANS, CRY OUT, CRY OUT
HARK, PRINCESS WHAT IS YOUR PREDICTION TODAY?
CRY TROJANS, FOR LEST YOU HEED MY WARNING, TROY SHALL FALL AND BURN!
TROY WILL BURN!
OH, PARIS THE FIRE-BRAND,
YOU WILL BURN US ALL! IF YOU DO NOT RETURN THAT LOATHSOME HELEN TO HER TRUE HUSBAND..
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• Cassandra in Taiwan: out of "The Iliad," she is a priestess who was cursed by Apollo that her predictions would always foretell the truth, but she would never be believed. In the play, people just think she's mad, but I prefer the version with irony. ~ Emily

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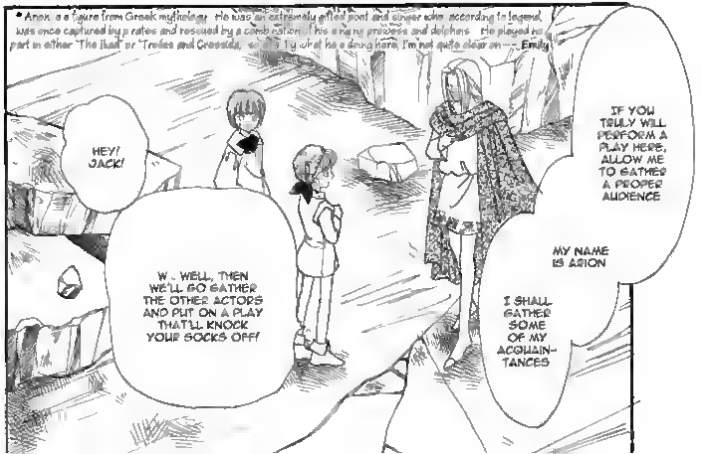
BUT OUR BOSS IS BACK IN THE LAST TOWN ON SOME BUSINESS OR ANOTHER AND WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM HERE
NO, WE'RE ACTUALLY ON OUR WAY TO OUR NEXT GIG
The truth is it's a mistake I can't tell another of the Queen's spies

* What no being said for 13 pounds? Marlowe's losing his touch - Emily

BESIDES, THIS IS SUCH A GREAT STAGE, IT'D BE A SHAME TO LET IT GO TO WASTE.
IT'S OK, MARLOWE! AFTER ALL, AN AUDIENCE OF ONE IS STILL AN AUDIENCE
WELL I GUESS SO...

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!

WELL THEN, LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF


* Arion, a figure from Greek mythology. He was an extremely gifted poet and singer who, according to legend, was once captured by pirates and rescued by a dolphin. This story involves pirates and dolphins. He played no part in either 'The Iliad' or 'Troilus and Cressida,' so I'll try what he's doing here, I'm not quite clear on it. - Emily
HEY! JACK!
W - WELL, THEN WE'LL GO GATHER THE OTHER ACTORS AND PUT ON A PLAY THAT'LL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF!
IF YOU TRULY WILL PERFORM A PLAY HERE, ALLOW ME TO GATHER A PROPER AUDIENCE
MY NAME IS ARION
I SHALL GATHER SOME OF MY ACQUAINTANCES

WELL, THEN, I SHALL RETURN HERE THIS NIGHT
I VOW IT
JACK, I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE BEST IDEA I MEAN THE BOSS ISN'T AROUND...
IT'LL BE FINE. WE'RE JUST PUTTING ON A PLAY. WE SHOULD BE FINE WITH JUST US ACTORS
BESIDES ...
ARION IS SOOO DREAMY. ♡
I knew it was something like that
Jack's
Emily

Where'd Andrew get that horse and why does it look like it wants to eat him? Think Count D had an ancestor in Elizabethan England? - Emily

MEANWHILE, IN HIS SEARCH FOR PRINCESS JACQUELINE, ANDREW IS ...

Andrew needs a new JOB!!! And seriously, what's the deal with that horse? - Emily

Age 9
Age 4
YOU'D START TO CRY AND COME RUNNING BACK TO ME
YOU'VE BEEN A TOMBOY EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER
AND YOU'VE ALWAYS GONE YOUR OWN WAY...
BUT IN THE END, EVERY TIME WITHOUT FAIL..
run
run
run
YOU STRUCK AWAY MY OUTREACHED HAND
BUT AT THAT TIME,
PRINCESS JACQUELINE
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Are you sure anyones going to show up?
There probably aren't 30 people in this whole village
And on top of that, we don't have enough torches to light the stage in this fog
Do you seriously want us to perform here?
Come on, says
Greetings, everyone
So you truly will put on a play for us
Of course, we promised, didn't we?
Whoosh

BY THE WAY, ARION, WHERE'S THE AUDIENCE THAT YOU GATHERED?
You did get an audience right?
AH YES THE AUDIENCE
WHAT!?
THEY'VE ACTUALLY BEEN WAITING HERE QUITE A WHILE
WOOO
WOOO

I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE ENTER.
WH... WHEN DID THEY GET HERE?
YOU KNOW, I KINDA FEEL LIKE WE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF
Look, the moon came out so we have enough lighting now!
HIS LOOKS ARE UNMATCHED, AND I'VE HEARD THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG
Oooh! ♡
IS SIR REPPIN HERE TOO?

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SO, HE'S A PRINCE!?
JUST LEAVE IT TO US!!
THESE ARE MY PARENTS,
AS SUCH THE OCCASIONAL PLAY IS THEIR ONLY AMUSEMENT
THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SECLUSION FOR A LONG TIME.
YES, WE OF THE LONDON-TRAINED QUEEN'S GLOVE TROUPE SHALL PUT ON A PLAY THAT WILL LIVE UP TO ALL YOUR EXPECTATIONS
TODAY'S PROGRAMME CALLS FOR A TRAGEDY BEFITTING THIS STAGE...
WE SHALL NOW BEGIN "OEDIPUS REX"!

AN ORACLE FORETOLD THAT THIS CHILD WOULD GROW TO KILL THE KING
IN AN ATTEMPT TO OUTRUN DESTINY THE CHILD'S FEET WERE MUTILATED
AND HE WAS LEFT TO DIE IN THE MOUNTAINS
PEOPLE OF THEBES!
HENCEFORTH, I, OEDIPUS SHALL SERVE YOU AS KING AND HUSBAND TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL QUEEN!
AMAZING...

NO, I CANNOT SAY MORE
IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN
EVERYONE IS REALLY GIVING IT THEIR ALL TODAY
AND THE AUDIENCE IS REACTING TO EVERYTHING
SOME OF THEM ARE EVEN CRYING

TRULY I AM IN YOUR DEBT
THAT WAS A MAGNIFICENT PLAY

IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT WE WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD JOIN US FOR A FEAST AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION
WOW
MY FATHER ALSO WISHES ME TO PASS ALONG HIS COMPLIMENTS
WELL, WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING IF YOU HADN'T GATHERED SUCH A GREAT AUDIENCE, ADON
AND HERE IS YOUR PAYMENT FOR TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. WHAT'S ONE DAY IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS?
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MEETING THE BOSS TOMORROW!
Wait a minute!
Oh it would be our pleasure!
BUT WOULD YOU CONSIDER STAYING TO PUT ON ANOTHER PLAY TOMORROW NIGHT?
ONE MORE THING, I REALIZE THIS MAY BE AN IMPOSITION,

75 Poor Marlowe, maybe he'll eventually learn that "logic" has no effect on these people. -Emily

Well I guess I can't argue with that
AND STANDING ON THAT STAGE IT WAS LIKE THE LINES FLOWED OUT ON THEIR OWN
AND SETTING THE AUDIENCE CAUGHT UP IN THE STORY WAS SO EASY
OUR SPONSOR IS LIKE A GOD! ♡
AND THAT AUDIENCE WAS DIVINE! ♡
I THINK SO TOO, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER HAD SO MUCH FUN DOING A PLAY
I WANT TO DO EVEN MORE PLAYS
HERE IN THIS AMPHI-THEATRE!!

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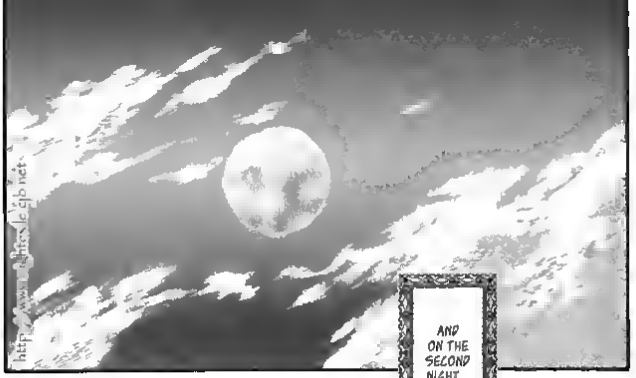

AND ON THE SECOND NIGHT...

Sorry about that
BUT YOU GOT CAUGHT UP IN THINGS TOO! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY KISSED ME
IF YOU'D CUT IT ANY CLOSER, I'D REALLY HAVE DIED!
JUST WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING DURING THE DOUBLE SUICIDE SCENE?
Look at my sleeve!
Uuh, for some reason that was twice as tiring as it usually is.
Um, you DO know the play's over, right?
Oh, man, I cried so much I almost lost my voice.
Daddy, Mommy, why did you leave me there to die?
AH, OUR HONORED THESPIANS
TODAY'S PLAY WAS ALSO QUITE EXCELLENT, BUT YOU SEEM TIRED.
HERE, THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES

BY THE WAY, I REALIZE THIS MAY BE AN IMPOSITION...
BUT...
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STAY JUST ONE MORE DAY FOR ONE MORE PLAY?

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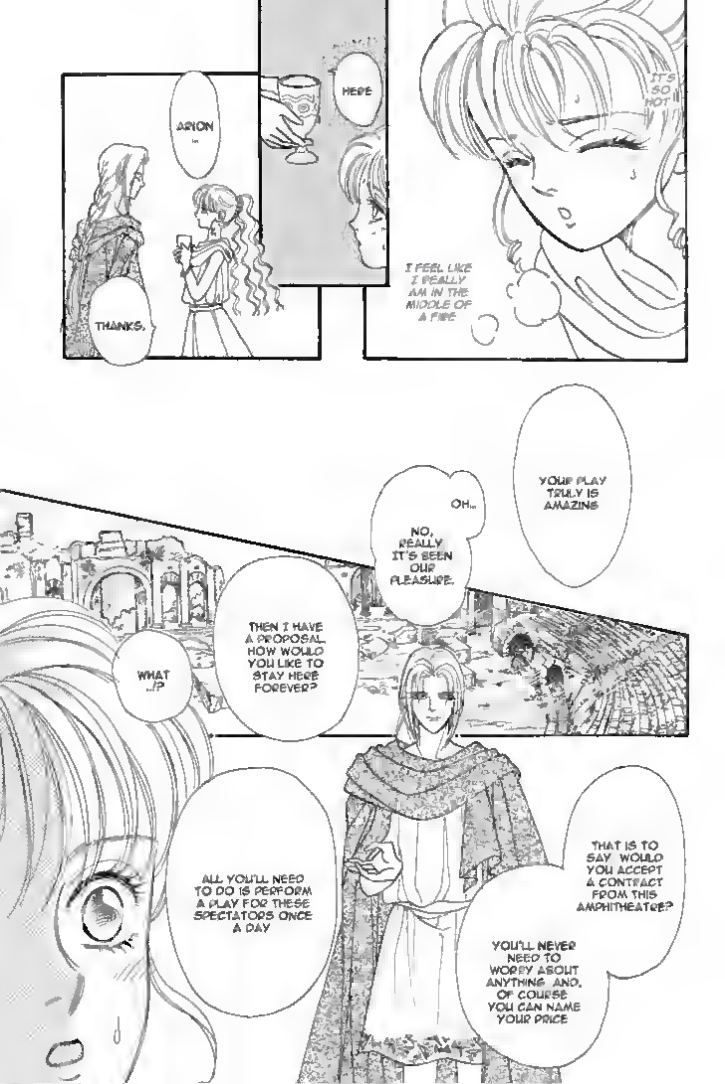
Y... YOU'RE...
THE HEAD OF "THE QUEEN'S GLOVE"!
YOU'RE THAT ANDREW KID FROM HAVEST?
Shakespeare's got a good memory, especially [illegible] he never actually [illegible] Emily

THE ENTIRE TROUPE'S DISAPPEARED?!?
THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE WAITING FOR US IN A FISHING VILLAGE. BUT NO ONE'S SEEN THEM THERE FOR TWO DAYS
THEN I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THEY'D GONE ON AHEAD TO OUR NEXT SIS...
BUT I JUST CAME FROM THERE AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM.
PRINCESS JACQUE-LINE...!!
AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET FROM THE FISHING VILLAGE TO THE CITY
IS THIS ROAD...

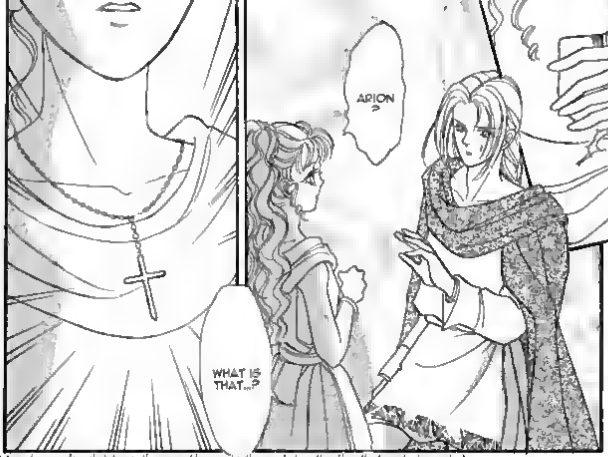
Again, I don't know what play they're doing. Troilus and Cressida ends with the death of Hector, which occurs some time before Troy burns, and The Iliad ends with the funeral of Hector again occurring before Troy burns. It is not until The Odyssey that the fate for Troy is described. - Emily

FATHER, MOTHER, ALL TROY'S CHILDREN, EVERYTHING SHALL DISAPPEAR!
BEHOLD! TROY HAS SUNK INTO THE FIERY PITS OF HELL!!
BURN! BURN...!!
SIGH


ARION
HERE
IT'S SO HOT!
I FEEL LIKE I REALLY AM IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIRE
THANKS.
YOUR PLAY TRULY IS AMAZING
OH...
NO, REALLY IT'S BEEN OUR PLEASURE.
THEN I HAVE A PROPOSAL. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY HERE FOREVER?
WHAT ..!?
ALL YOU'LL NEED TO DO IS PERFORM A PLAY FOR THESE SPECTATORS ONCE A DAY
YOU'LL NEVER NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING AND, OF COURSE YOU CAN NAME YOUR PRICE
THAT IS TO SAY. WOULD YOU ACCEPT A CONTRACT FROM THIS AMPHITHEATRE?

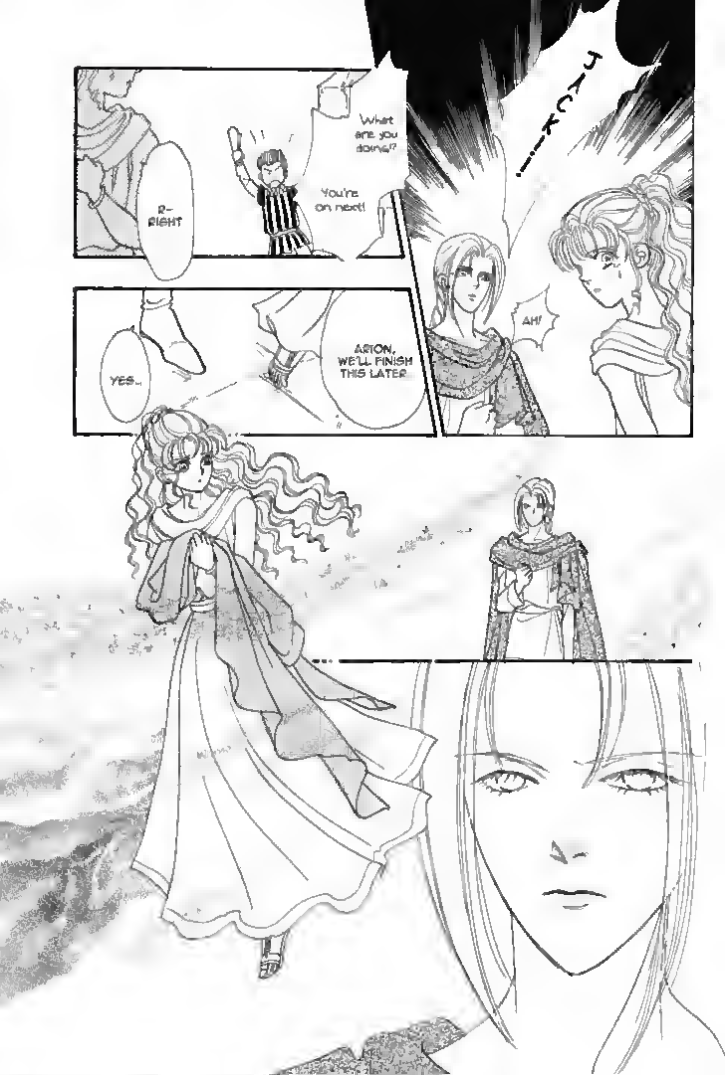
NOW..
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
A MISSION YOU SAY?
YES..
T... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION THAT WE NEED TO DO
I'M PRETTY SURE IT WAS..
SOMETHING IMPORTANT, BUT
N-NO, I'M A-
ACTRESS?
I'M SURE IF YOU STAY YOU'LL BLOSSOM INTO AN EVEN MORE AMAZING ACTRESS
EVEN IF IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE OTHERS.
WOULD YOU..
CONSIDER STAYING WITH US JACK?
WHAT..?
I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY A GIRL.
I'VE KNOWN SINCE THE INSTANT WE MET
http://www.nightcycle.gb.net

WA-WAA
EH...?
D- D- DID HE JUST SAY WHAT I THINK HE SAID!?
PLEASE TAKE ON THE ROLE OF MY WIFE.
JACK...
A... ARION...
JACK...
IT NEVER FELT LIKE THIS...
EVEN WITH MY DARLING RAYMOND
WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER



* Arion has no idea what it is. In the end he speaks the word Kate rather than the kanji to demonstrate [illegible] As we don't have anything [illegible] in keeping him misspell it. --Emily

A... KROSS?
THIS ...?
IT'S JUST A CROSS
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A CROSS IS!?
ARION...!?
CHRIST ...?
I KNOW THAT THE CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS IN ENGLAND HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES,
BUT THE CROSS IS THE COMMON SYMBOL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST


What are you doing!?
You're on next!
R-RIGHT
ASION, WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER.
YES..
AH!

HELEN!!
CURSED WENCH!!
EEK!
ARION
WHAT'S GOING ON..?
HMM
M-MARLOWE!?
WAIT A MINUTE!
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU THAT MY HUSBAND AND SON DIED ON THE BATTLEFIELD!
SILENCE! I'LL NOT HEED YOUR PLEAS FOR MERCY..
YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS MISERY!
THE GODS CRY FOR YOU TO BE PUNISHED!
Owww!
YOU REALLY CUT ME,
WHAT DID YOU DO THAT FOR, MARLOWE?

KLANG
OH HO HO HO!
PARIS THIS IS YOUR PUNISHMENT FROM YOUR MISTRESS,
AND THE END OF THIS ROUND
RAYMOND !?
ARE YOU REALLY DYING!?
S---i---c
AUNTIE ROSE!
BUT DON'T WORRY YOU SHALL NOT DIE ALONE
YOUR MISTRESS SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU ON THE JOURNEY TO THE UNDER-WORLD

Slash
HUH!
MAD-LOWE!?
PREPARE YOURSELF, HELEN!
THIS IS ONLY A PLAY!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH EVERYONE!?
SNAP OUT OF IT!
THE CURTAIN!!
SOMEONE DROP THE CURTAIN!!
THE CURTAIN IS NOT GOING TO FALL...
HERE
WE'RE PERFORM-ING EVERY SECOND...
THIS IS INSANE...
DEAD PEOPLE CAN'T PERFORM PLAYS!
NOT TO WORRY JACK

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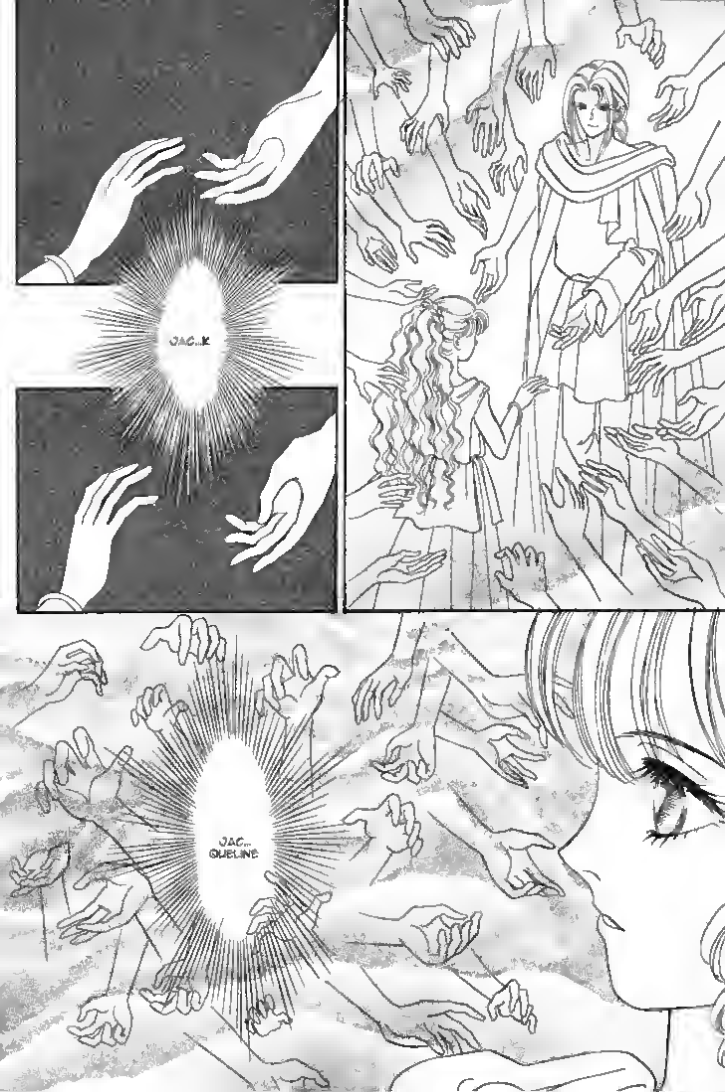
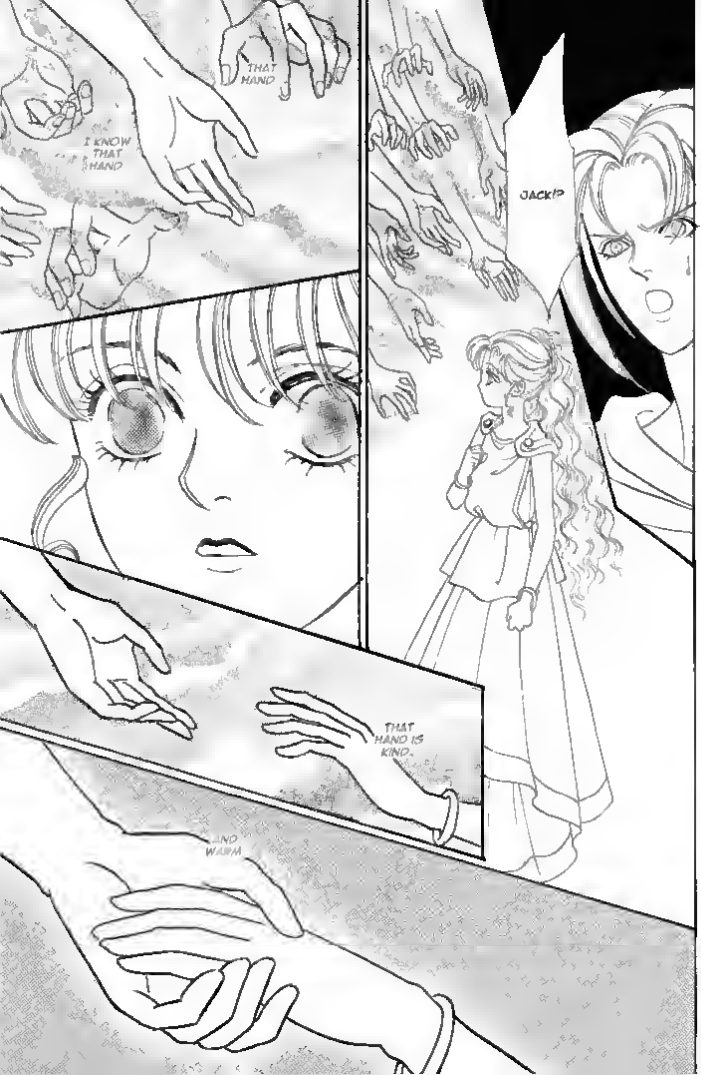
HERE, IN THIS PLACE,
WE CAN LOVE AND FIGHT AND DIE...
OVER AND OVER AND OVER
AGAIN WE CAN LIVE
AND STILL LIVE
TO LOVE AGAIN...
THE LIVES OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE
SCREAMS OF JOY
AND THE SOUND OF
THEY CAN REVIVE US AGAIN AND AGAIN!!

I CAN SPEND ALL MY TIME HAVING FUN AND DOING PLAYS WITH EVERYONE!
IF I STAY HERE
YES, IT'S TRUE
OH... IS THAT RIGHT...?
WELL, JACK
ARION
WILL YOU COME OVER TO OUR SIDE?

COME, JACK!!


JAC...K
JAC...
QUELINE


THAT HAND
I KNOW THAT HAND
JACK!?
THAT HAND IS KIND.
AND WARM

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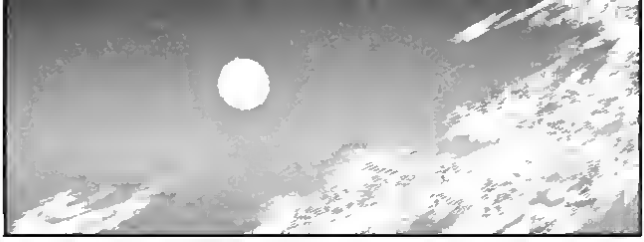
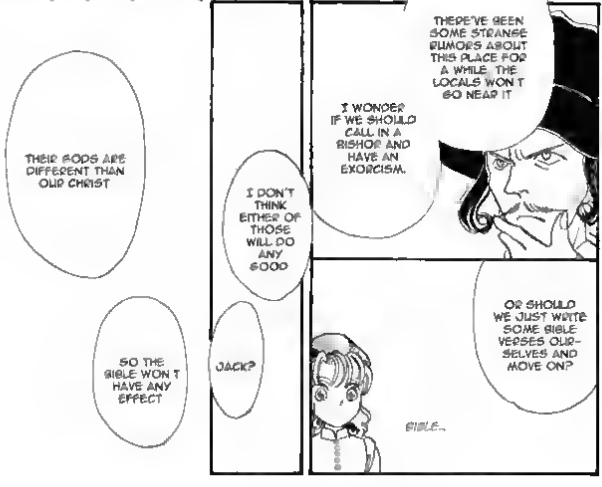


Then our money is what matters !
Eek! How scary
Ancient Greek ghosts!?
All the beautiful women were
So our patron and the audience were
So then, what we saw were

I realize this may be a stupid question, but how did ancient Greek ghosts get to England? – **Emily**


THEY'VE BEEN SOME STRANGE RUMORS ABOUT THIS PLACE FOR A WHILE. THE LOCALS WON'T GO NEAR IT
I WONDER IF WE SHOULD CALL IN A BISHOP AND HAVE AN EXORCISM.
OR SHOULD WE JUST WRITE SOME BIBLE VERSES OURSELVES AND MOVE ON?
BIBLE...
JACK?
I DON'T THINK EITHER OF THOSE WILL DO ANY GOOD
THEIR GODS ARE DIFFERENT THAN OUR CHRIST
SO THE BIBLE WON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT

HIS TEARS
WERE SO BEAUTIFUL.
AND.
AND ALL THOSE PEOPLE WANTED WAS TO SEE A PLAY, IS THAT SO BAD?
AND TO THIS DAY, THE PHANTOMS OF TRUE LOVERS OF THE THEATRE AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER ACTING TROUPE TO LOSE THEIR WAY.
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Chapter 5 ◆ End

HEY JACK,
COULD YOU GET ME THE DICTIONARY FROM THAT SHELF?
SURE
EHP
WHAT'S THIS!?
SCARLET PHANTOM
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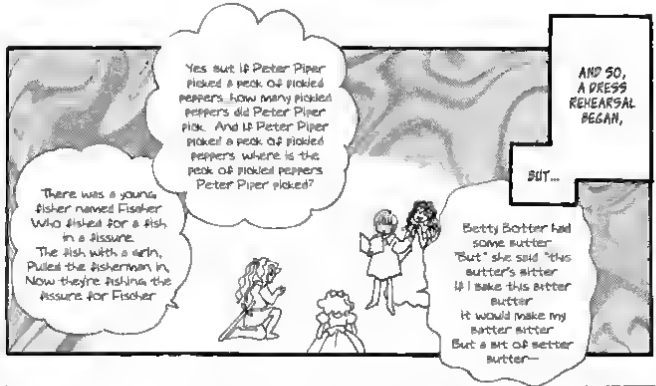
http://www.nightexile.qb.net
Intermission • II
"SCARLET PHANTOM"...?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT PLAY...
EYA! JACK!!
DON'T TOUCH THAT SCRIPT!
SCARLET PHANTOM

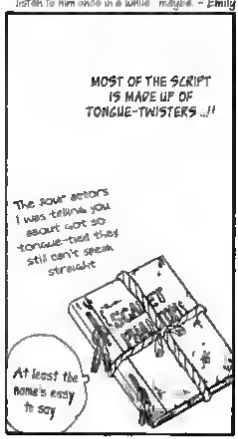
IS IT HARSH SOCIAL COMMENTARY THAT FELL VICTIM TO CENSORSHIP?
WHY?
IS IT THAT BAD?
Is it X-Rated?
THIS PLAY HASN'T BEEN STABBED IN YEARS
THE SCRIPT'S BEEN BANNED FOR GOOD
Gasp
Gasp
ANYWAY, THIS "SCARLET PHANTOM"...
IS A CURSED LAND WE ARE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER
SCARLET PHANTOM
NO, NO, THIS IS A CURSED PLAY THAT TAKES THE LIVES OF THE ACTORS WHO PERFORM IT
Our lives?
While Shakespeare never wrote or directed a play called "Scarlet Phantom," Macbeth is supposedly cursed -Emily
Is it really haunted~~!?
THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUR ACTORS SACRIFICED TO THIS CURSED WORK "SCARLET PHANTOM"
YES. IN TRUTH

BOSS! LET US PERFORM THAT PLAY!
JACK...!?
THAT SOUNDS COOL!
IS THIS ALL OF IT?
HUM..
BESIDES, NORMAL ACTORS CAN'T PERFORM THIS PLAY. YOU'D NEED SOME SORT OF SUPER-ACTOR
You stupid whelp! It's 100 years too early for you to be thinking that.
THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE NUMBER 1 TRAVELING ACTING TROUPE "THE QUEEN'S GLOVE," TO SHOW OUR TALENTS
SAY NO MORE BOSS. LEAVE THE REST TO US!
Yeah! Let's do it!
I won't be held responsible for what happens!
You don't know what you're doing!


There was a young fisher named Fisher
Who fished for a fish in a fissure.
The fish with a grin, Pulled the fisherman in. Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher
Yes, but if Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, how many pickled peppers did Peter Piper pick. And if Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where is the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
AND SO, A DRESS REHEARSAL BEGAN,
BUT...
Betty Botter had some butter "But" she said "this butter's bitter If I make this bitter butter It would make my batter bitter But a bit of better butter—

Ouch!
Chomp
Amidst the mists and coldest frosts, with stoutest wrists and loudest boasts, he thrusts his fist against the posts and still insists he sees the ghosts.

* This might not be a total loss, maybe now they'll listen to him once in a while... maybe. - Emily


MOST OF THE SCRIPT IS MADE UP OF TONGUE-TWISTERS ...!!
The sour actors I was telling you about got so tongue-tied they still can't speak straight
SCARLET PIMPERNEL
At least the name's easy to say

Oki ni mesu mama (As you like it)

by Akino Matsuri

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LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN!!
"THE QUEEN'S GLOVE" IS PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU!!
Eh? Are we filming this?
The make up's elaborate too
I play 2 roles this time
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S GLOVE ARE MORE EXCITED THAN USUAL TO BE PERFORMING THIS PLAY
TODAY IS THE FIRST STAGING OF OUR NEW WORK
HERE YOU'LL SEE QUICK-CHANGES, MID-AIR FEATS, AND A SPLENDID SET. ALL WONDROUS TO BEHOLD
That's not quite finished yet~~

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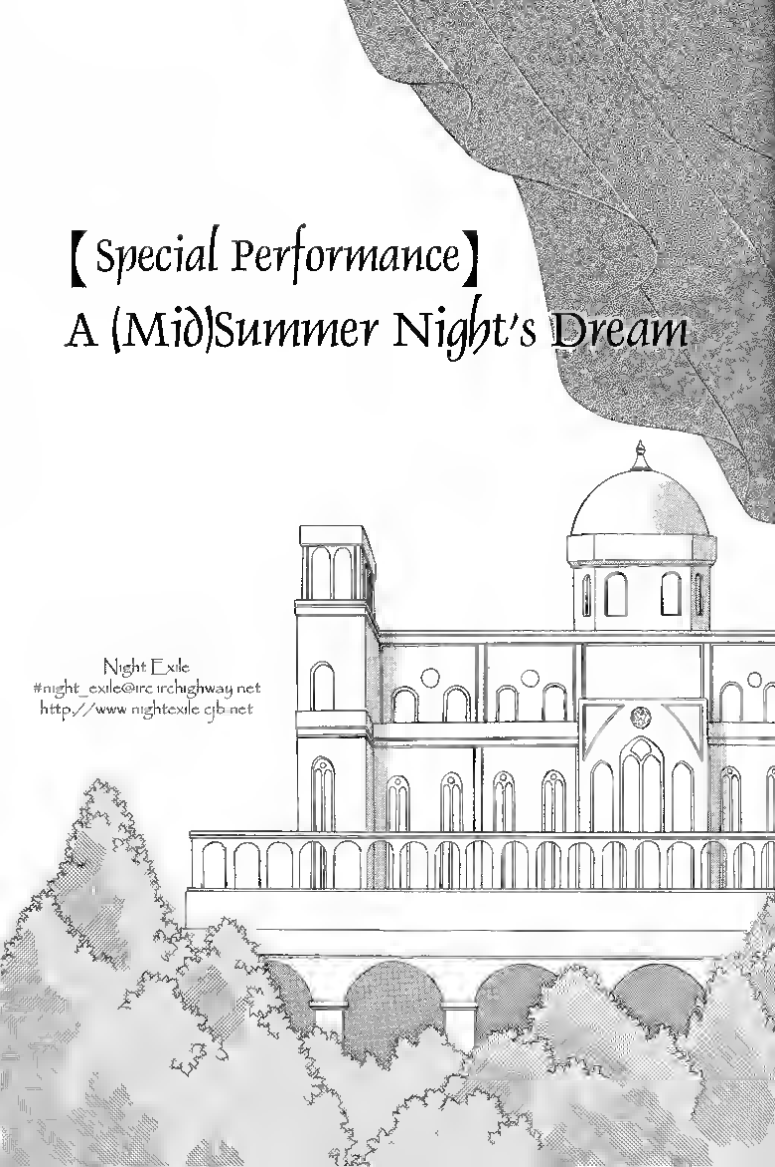
Miss Celia, don't forget your wig!
THEY'RE BUSY GETTING READY IN THE DRESSING ROOM RIGHT NOW
I'll never be able to remember all these lines.
Script
Now we look like sisters! ♡
AND TO TOP IT OFF, WE'LL HAVE SOME SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST APPEARANCES
PLACES PEOPLE, CURTAIN'S GOING UP SOON!
Yes!
clap
clap
RIGHT!! OPEN THE CURTAIN!!
AND WITH THAT, I BID YOU A FOND AU REVOIR
BY THE BY, I'M GOING TO APPEAR AS AN ACTOR THIS TIME.

【Special Performance】
A (Mid)Summer Night's Dream



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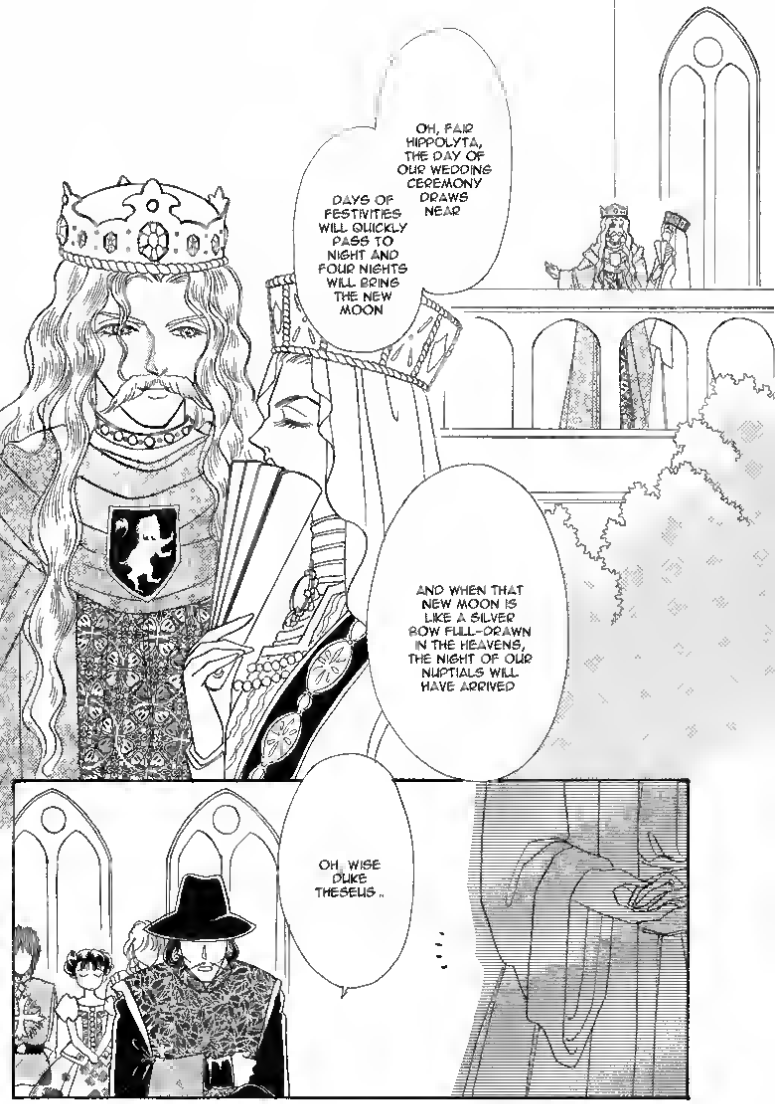

OH, FAIR HIPPOLYTA, THE DAY OF OUR WEDDING CEREMONY DRAWS NEAR
DAYS OF FESTIVITIES WILL QUICKLY PASS TO NIGHT AND FOUR NIGHTS WILL BRING THE NEW MOON
AND WHEN THAT NEW MOON IS LIKE A SILVER BOW FULL-DRAWN IN THE HEAVENS, THE NIGHT OF OUR NUPTIALS WILL HAVE ARRIVED
OH, WISE DUKE THESEUS..
...

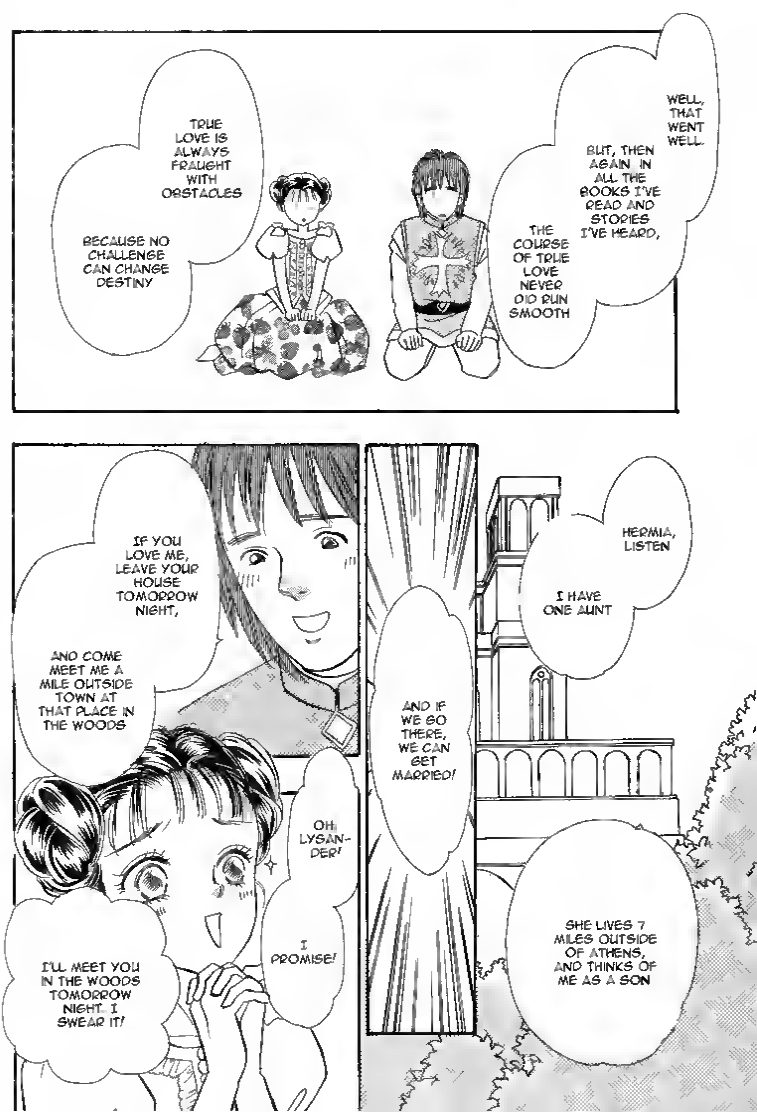
THERE IS SOME TROUBLE CONCERNING MY DAUGHTER, HERMIA
YOU MUST COMMAND HER COMPLIANCE
AH EGEUS
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
COME FORWARD, DEMETRIUS
THIS MAN HAS MY PERMISSION TO MARRY MY DAUGHTER...
LYSANDER!
THIS MAN HAS CONNIVED TO STEAL AWAY MY DAUGHTERS' HEART AND OBEDIENCE
IF MY DAUGHTER REFUSES TO MARRY THE MAN I HAVE CHOSEN FOR HER...
THEN I WILL EVOKE MY RIGHTS GRANTED BY THE ANCIENT LAW OF ATHENS!

http://www.nightexile.cjb.net

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES
DUKE THESEUS,
IF I DON'T MARRY DEMETRIUS, WHAT PUNISHMENT WILL I SUFFER?
YOU WILL EITHER BE SENTENCED TO DEATH, OR YOU WILL BE SHUT AWAY IN A CLOISTER AND LIVE AS A NUN
WHAT!
YOU HAVE HER FATHER'S LOVE DEMETRIUS
LEAVE ME HERS AND MARRY HER FATHER
Perverted old man
But Demi-chan really isn't my type you see.
What about that?
AND LYSANDER, GIVE HER UP AND CEDE TO ME MY RIGHT TO HER
RECONSIDER, HERMIA

*This might be a good time to point out that as Theseus and Hippolyta are supposed to be having affairs with the Queen and King of the fairies respectively they probably shouldn't be this old! –Emily

Besides,
AND SHE'S NOW HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR THIS FOUL AND INCONSTANT MAN!
DEMETRIUS HAS MADE ADVANCES TOWARDS NEDAR'S DAUGHTER HELENA,
AND ON TOP OF THAT I AM LOVED BY HERMIA
You tell 'em darling ♡
LIKE THESEUS, I'M JUST AS WORTHY AS DEMETRIUS IN TERMS OF WEALTH, BIRTH, AND POSITION
OK, so maybe he's better looking than I am.
Ri——ght
BUT I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH MY OWN AFFAIRS OF THE HEART THAT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT IT
Ahem!
I'VE ALSO HEARD SOMETHING OF THE SORT
AND TRY TO SEE THINGS FROM YOUR FATHER'S POINT OF VIEW
ABANDON THIS SELFISH-NESS
AS FOR YOU, HERMIA
DEMETRIUS AND EGEUS, COME WITH ME THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE BOTH OF YOU
YES, SIR, RIGHT AWAY


TRUE LOVE IS ALWAYS FRAUGHT WITH OBSTACLES
BECAUSE NO CHALLENGE CAN CHANGE DESTINY
THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE NEVER DID RUN SMOOTH
BUT, THEN AGAIN IN ALL THE BOOKS I'VE READ AND STORIES I'VE HEARD,
WELL, THAT WENT WELL.
IF YOU LOVE ME, LEAVE YOUR HOUSE TOMORROW NIGHT,
AND COME MEET ME A MILE OUTSIDE TOWN AT THAT PLACE IN THE WOODS
OH, LYSANDER!
I'LL MEET YOU IN THE WOODS TOMORROW NIGHT. I SWEAR IT!
I PROMISE!
HERMIA, LISTEN
I HAVE ONE AUNT
AND IF WE GO THERE, WE CAN GET MARRIED!
SHE LIVES 7 MILES OUTSIDE OF ATHENS, AND THINKS OF ME AS A SON

#nightsmidsummerdream

THEN IT'S A PROMISE
OH, IT'S HELENA
GOOD DAY, FAIR HELENA!
DON'T WORRY, AFTER TOMORROW, DEMETRIUS WILL NEVER SEE MY FACE AGAIN
LYSANDER AND I ARE GOING TO RUN AWAY TOGETHER
DEMETRIUS LOVES *YOUR* FAIR
Fair?
Me?
Why would you say that?

WE'RE GOING TO MEET AT AN APPOINTED SPOT IN THE WOODS AND NEVER RETURN TO ATHENS
TOMORROW NIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO SNEAK OUT OF THE CASTLES' GATES
PRAY FOR US AND I HOPE THINGS WORK OUT WITH YOU AND DEMETRIUS
FAREWELL MY OLD FRIEND
TAKE CARE, HELENA
I HOPE DEMETRIUS RETURNS YOUR FEELINGS, SO THAT ONE DAY...
YOU CAN BE AS HAPPY AS WE ARE!
BUT DEMETRIUS DOESN'T SEE IT
I LOVE HIM SO MUCH, BUT HE HATES ME
I'M JUST AS FAIR AS HERMIA...

HE'LL SEE THEM RUN AWAY
I KNOW!
I'LL TELL HIM ABOUT HERMIAS' PLANS!
THEN HE'LL DEFINITELY FOLLOW HER TO THE WOODS
AND SUFFER FROM LOVE JUST AS I HAVE DONE!

The woods outside Athens.
http://www.nightrealm.net
OH YOU'RE FAIRIES, RIGHT?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
We collect the pretty dew
Across mountains, through valleys
Across water, through fire.
The Fairy Queen and her elves will arrive here soon.

* Speaking of the Indian boy, there are several theories as to exactly what he's doing in the play. If you ask a literary analysis expert they'll tell you he symbolizes Titan's sexual independence from Oberon, but if you ask a comedy expert (me) he's just some name plot point to give Titania and Oberon an excuse to fight. – **Emily**

THE REASON? THE QUEEN HAS STOLEN A LOVELY BOY FROM AN INDIAN KING AND MADE HIM HER PAGE.*

TO BE HIS HEAD ATTENDANT WHEN HE GOES HUNTING

OBERON, JEALOUS, WANTS THE BOY

ANYWAY, OBERON'S BEEN IN A BAD MOOD LATELY...

AND IF HE SEES THE QUEEN THINGS'LL BE PRETTY UNPLEASANT...

BUT KING OBERON IS HAVING A BANQUET HERE TONIGHT

huh?

BUT THE QUEEN...

And the Queen's coming from over here!

This is gonna be bad!!

Quick! Oberon's coming!

WHY JEALOUS OBERON
ILL-MET BY MOONLIGHT, PROUD TITANIA.
I'LL NO MORE OF THIS MAN'S BED OR COMPANY
FAIRIES, AWAY!
THEN I MUST BE YOUR WIFE
HOLD, SHALLOW WOMAN!
AM I NOT YOUR HUSBAND?

• If Titan a and Oberon look familiar they're played by Aunt e Rose and Raymond (who were playing Hippolyta and Theseus) It's traditional casting for MSND to have Theseus and Oberon played by the same actor and you'll sometimes find Hippolyta and Titania played by the same actress -Emily

I WILL NOT PART WITH THAT CHILD!
NOT FOR ALL YOUR FAIRY KINGDOM!
THEN WHY DO YOU DEFY ME?
ALL I AM ASKING IS FOR YOU TO LET ME MAKE THE BOY MY ATTENDANT!
SO FOR HER SAKE I WILL RAISE THE BOY, AND FOR HER SAKE I WILL NOT GIVE HIM TO YOU.
BUT HUMAN LIFE IS SHORT, AND SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO THE BOY.
THE BOY'S MOTHER WAS ONE OF MY DEVOTEES.
IN THE FRAGRANT INDIAN AIR, WE WOULD SIT TOGETHER AT NIGHT AND TALK.
IF I STAY HERE ANY LONGER WE'LL START TO FIGHT.
LET'S AWAY

For response to Jocelyn's note: Alex's comment seems to have resulted in either major misreading of MSND, which happens to make the "Ah me! I fly like! Then I must be tiny lady" lines make sense. Titania and Oberon are supposed to be arguing about their affairs with Theseus and Hippolyta respectively, thus cutting to the true nature of their argument and revealing the Indian boy for the emotional mask it is. This also makes Oberon's horns quite entertaining as in Elizabethan England horns on men were symbolic of them being cuckolded (their wives were cheating on them). – Emily

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BUT YOU'LL NOT TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF THIS FOREST UNTIL I HAVE MY REVENGE FOR THIS INSULT!
Puck, come here!
Yee~s!
Yeah, you'd better leave!
IF YOU TAKE THE JUICE OF THIS FLOWER AND SPREAD IN ON THE EYELIDS OF A SLEEPING CREATURE, BE IT MAN OR WOMAN, THEY WILL FALL MADLY IN LOVE WITH THE FIRST LIVING THING THEY SEE
THE FLOWER MAIDENS CALL "LOVE-IN-IDLENESS."
Yup I remember!
A LOVE ARROW FROM CUPID'S BOW STRUCK A SMALL WESTERN FLOWER
YOU MUST REMEMBER, LONG AGO
FETCH ME THIS FLOWER

No problem!
I CAN GO AROUND THE WORLD IN 40 MINUTES!
ONCE I HAVE THIS JUICE, I'LL PUT IT ON TITANIA'S EYES WHILE SHE SLEEPS
AND ONCE THAT'S DONE...
MUA HA HA
Who's this?
THEY SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE ME
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ALL THE WAY OUT HERE
Wait Demetrius
Would you shut up?

STOP FOLLOWING ME AND GO HOME ALREADY!
BUT YOU DRAW ME TO YOU
DO I ENCOUR-AGE YOU?
HAVEN'T I PLAINLY TOLD YOU THAT I DO NOT AND CANNOT LOVE YOU?
BUT YOUR SAYING THAT JUST MAKES ME LOVE YOU MORE!
HIT ME, SPURN ME, IGNORE ME, I DON'T CARE!
JUST LET ME UNWORTHY AS I AM BE NEAR YOU!
STOP THIS FOOLISH BLATHER, OR I'LL COME TO HATE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

DEMETRIUS
YOUR ILL-TREATMENT OF ME IS AN INSULT TO ALL WOMEN
DO WHAT YOU WILL, BUT BE WARNED!
IF YOU FOLLOW ME, I'LL MAKE YOUR TIME IN THESE WOODS MISERABLE!
EURT
I'LL AT LEAST HAVE SOME SATISFACTION TO DIE BY THE HAND OF THE PERSON I LOVE!

Yup, here it is!
Welcome back
Did you bring the flower I asked for?
Your Majesty
I'LL GO THERE AND DROP SOME OF THIS JUICE ON HER EYELIDS
Excellent
TITANIA TIRED FROM DANCING,
IS ASLEEP IN A BED OF FLOWERS IN A GARDEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WOODS
AND MAKE HER BELIEVE IN HORRIBLE FANTASIES
MAKE SURE YOU DO IT WHEN THE FIRST THING HE SEES WILL BE THE GIRL
Here's the important part
ANOINT HIS EYES WITH THE JUICE
A LOVELY ATHENIAN GIRL IS IN LOVE WITH A MAN WHO DISDAINS HER
YOU'RE TO SCOUR THE WOODS
TAKE THIS AND GO

Don't worry your Majesty
DON'T MESS THIS UP
THAT WAY NOT ONLY WILL THE GIRL BE IN LOVE WITH HIM HE'LL BE COMPLETELY CAPTIVATED BY HER
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

LOVE AND—
LANGUISH
FOR HIS
SAKE...
DO IT
FOR THY
TRUE
LOVE
TAKE
WHAT THOU
SEEST WHEN
THOU DOTH
WAKE

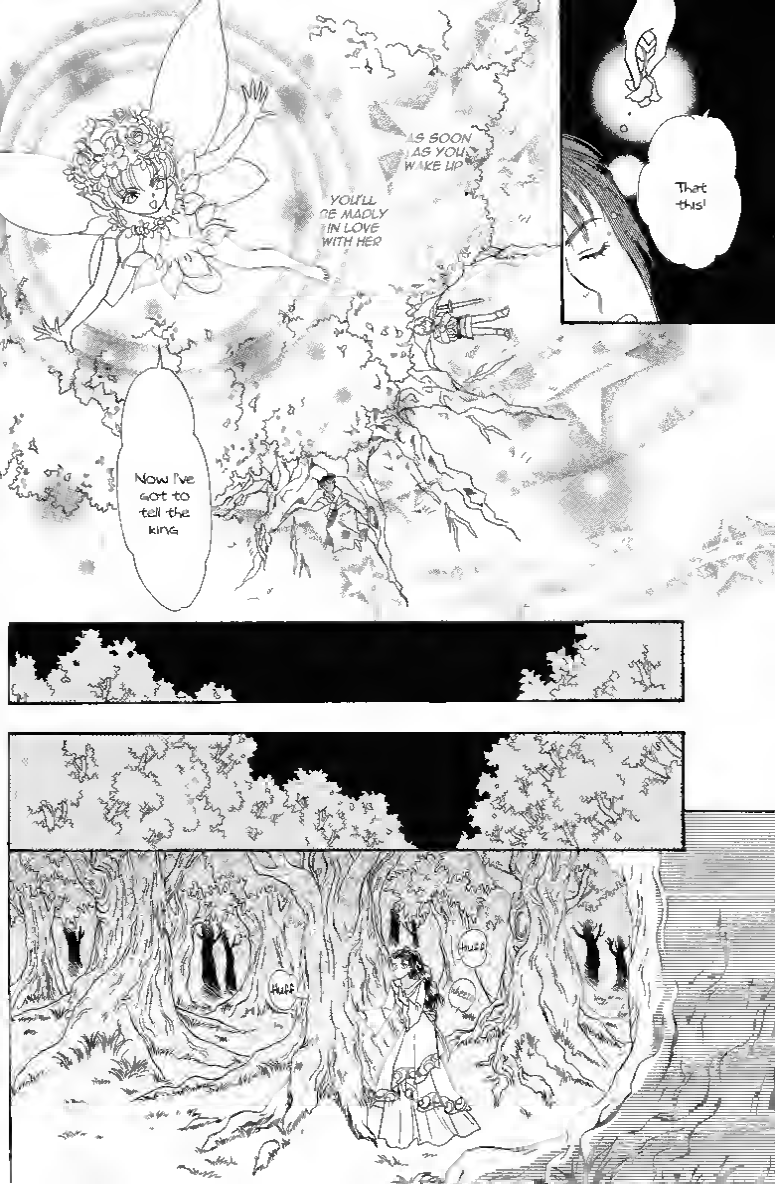
knight_exile@nrc.nrchighway.net

BE IT ounce, OR CAT O' BEAR,
FARO OR BOAR WITH BRISTLED HAIR IN TH' EYE THAT SHALL APPEAR
WHEN THOU WAK'ST IS THY DEAD
WAKE WHEN SOME VILE THING IS NEAR

* To make my life just a teeny bit easier I've decided to give Oberon's actual speech from MSND here. -Emily

YOU MUST BE PRETTY TIRED FROM WALKING AROUND IN THE WOODS
WHY DON'T WE REST HERE?
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
drop
NO, LYSANDER!
SHOVE
DON'T SIT SO CLOSE TO ME. GO FURTHER AWAY...
P-
PLEASE LET ME STAY BY YOUR SIDE, HERMIA
I'LL BE A PERFECT GENTLEMAN AND DO NOTHING TO IMPEACH YOUR MODESTY
I ASK YOU THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE A GENTLEMAN AND BECAUSE I LOVE YOU
IT ISN'T PROPER FOR AN UNMARRIED GENTLEMAN AND LADY TO LIE SO CLOSE TOGETHER
whimper
There, that's far enough
WELL, THEN
PLEASANT DREAMS!

AS LONG AS YOU LIVE, DON'T LET YOUR LOVE FALTER.
YES, IF I LOSE MY LOVE FOR YOU,
I'LL ALSO LOSE MY LIFE.
SO THIS IS THE JERK THAT POOR ATHENIAN GIRL FELL FOR.
I BET HE SHEDS NEITHER BLOOD NOR TEARS.
Very far apart
AND THE GIRL WON'T SLEEP ANYWHERE NEAR HIM.
WHO IS THIS HERE? HE'S WEARING ATHENIAN CLOTHES!


AS SOON AS YOU WAKE UP
YOU'LL BE MADLY IN LOVE WITH HER
That this!
Now I've got to tell the king
Huff
Huff
Huff

thuh!
Who's there?
Are you dead?!?
Lysander!
STUPID DEMETRIUS
HE LEFT ME ALL ALONE IN THIS DARKNESS
Zz
grab
Snore
Ruthless to other people's lovers
Wake up Lysander!
If you're still alive that is
SMACK SMACK
SMACK SMACK
Oh, you're only sleeping.
What?
BONK

AND I'D RUN FOR FIRE FOR YOUR SAKE, FAIR HELENA.
GET UP
DON'T SAY THAT!
SO WHAT IF HE LOVES HERMIA?
HERMIA LOVES YOU, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY WITH THAT!
And let go of my hand already!
HAPPY WITH HERMIA!?
ARE YOU JOKING?
I REGRET EVERY MOMENT I SPENT WITH HER
WHERE'S DEMETRIUS?
turn
turn
FIE, THAT NAME IS FIT TO DIE BY THIS SWORD

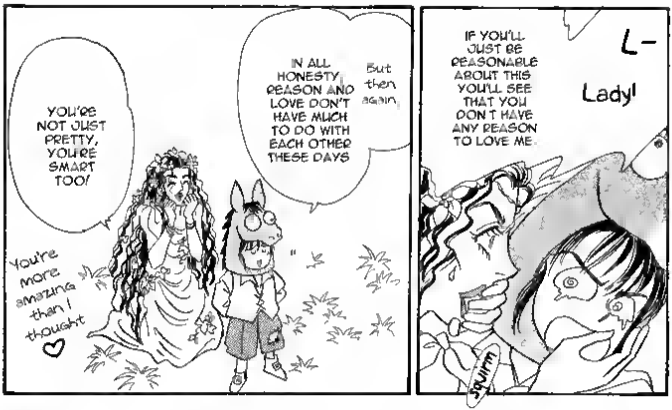
*SFX Pow
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME?
DO YOU THINK I DESERVE YOUR INSULTS?
Pop
IT IS NOT HERMIA,
BUT HELENA I LOVE!
STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU PA-THETIC LOUT!
RUN
RUN
RUN
RUN
Wait!
HERMIA, SLEEP THERE.
AND, MAY YOU'LL NEVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN
Zz
SHE DIDN'T NOTICE HERMIA

IS HE GONE?
LYSAN-DER?
OH...
THAT WAS A SCARY DREAM...
Ha!
CAN HE NOT HEAR ME?
LYSAN-DER?

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A WALK-THROUGH HERE
JUST LIKE WE'LL PERFORM IT FOR THE DUKE
HOW ABOUT IT? THIS IS A GOOD REHEARSAL SPOT FOR OUR PLAY
BOTTOM THE WEAVER, WE'LL TAKE IT FROM YOUR PART.
job but Bottom the Weaver? That's a lateral move at best ~Emily
Once you've said your lines... go hide in the bushes
WHY ARE THEY MAKING SUCH A RACKET?
THEY'RE PRETTY CLOSE TO WHERE THE FAIRY QUEEN IS SLEEPING
OH, THEY'RE GOING TO DO A PLAY?
All right everyone, take your places!
GOOD!
The light shines brightly Pyramus
Thisby that's your cue!
IS EVERYONE HERE?
No, these guys aren't as random as they seem. This is another plot point that Akane sensei left out. These clowns were supposed to come to Athens where a play contest for Theseus and Hippolyta's wedding is being held and they're planning to put on a play for it. ~Emily

* Awww but he looks cute even with his donkey head :) -ScarletxD

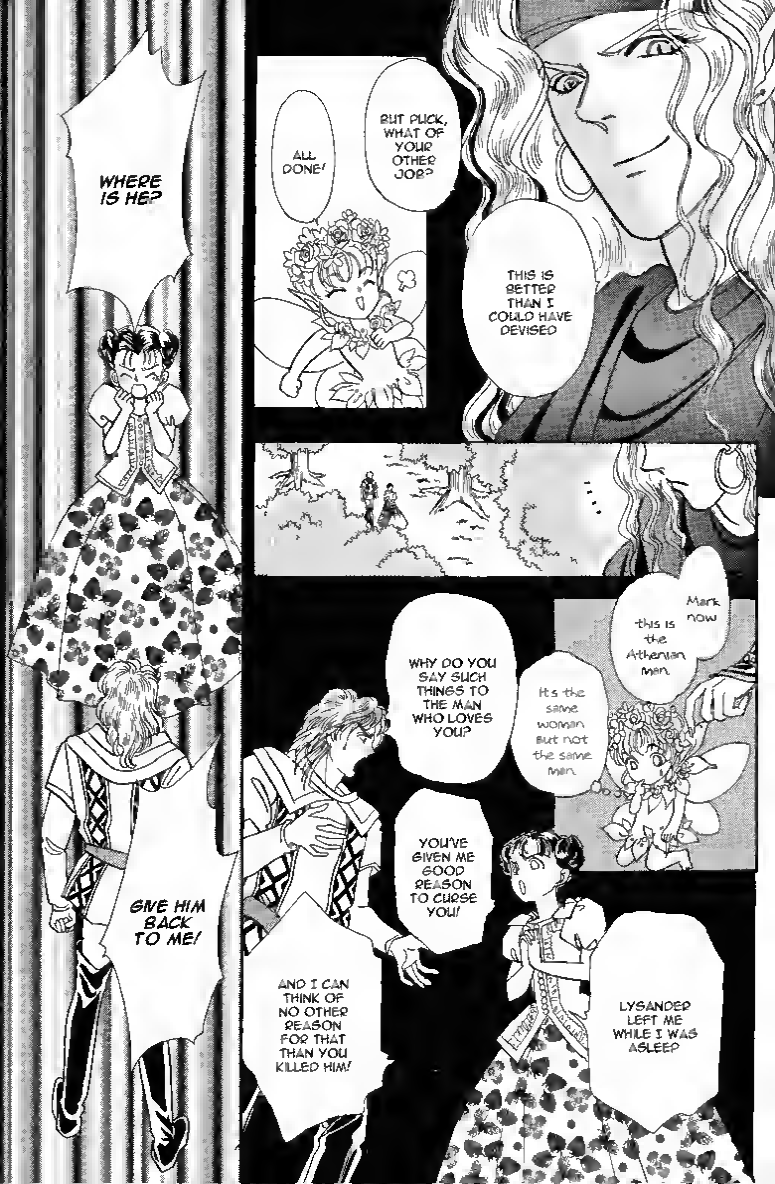
MY EARS ARE CAPTIVATED BY YOUR SONG
AND MY EYES
ARE QUITE ENAMORED OF YOUR BODY
Oh gentle mortal
SING AGAIN
What's that?!?
I LOVE YOU
FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I SAW YOUR BEAUTY
MY HEART WAS YOURS, I SWEAR AND VOW THAT
EEK!


You're more amazing than I thought
♡
YOU'RE NOT JUST PRETTY, YOU'RE SMART TOO!
IN ALL HONESTY, REASON AND LOVE DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH EACH OTHER THESE DAYS
But then again,
IF YOU'LL JUST BE REASONABLE ABOUT THIS YOU'LL SEE THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO LOVE ME.
L-
Lady!
Squirm

OUT OF THESE WOODS DO NOT DESIRE TO GO!
IF I WERE SMART ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF THESE WOODS, I'D BE HAPPY.
OH NOT REALLY.
SO STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER.
AND I'LL GIVE YOU FAIRIES TO WAIT ON YOU.
I AM NOT JUST ANY COMMON FAIRY
AND I LOVE YOU.

#night_exile@irc.irchighway.net

Really
And I
And I
What are your orders?
Ooh!
Peas-blos-som
Cor-wes
Moth
and Mustard seed!
My fairies,
I want you to take special care of this man.
Hello.
Hello.


WHERE IS HE?
ALL DONE!
BUT PUCK, WHAT OF YOUR OTHER JOB?
THIS IS BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE DEVISED
...
Mark now this is the Athenian men
It's the same woman but not the same man
WHY DO YOU SAY SUCH THINGS TO THE MAN WHO LOVES YOU?
YOU'VE GIVEN ME GOOD REASON TO CURSE YOU!
LYSANDER LEFT ME WHILE I WAS ASLEEP
AND I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER REASON FOR THAT THAN YOU KILLED HIM!
GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!

WHETHER HE'S ALIVE OR NOT!
Hermia!
You're just making baseless accusations because you're mad.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO LYSANDER... AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE'S NOT EVEN DEAD
I'M LEAVING NOW, YOU DISGUSTING OAF... AND DON'T TRY TO SEE ME AGAIN!
bonk
WHY YOU... YOU'VE GONE AND PUT THE LOVE POTION ON SOME TRUE LOVE'S EYES!
BECAUSE OF YOUR SCREW UP, A TRUE LOVE'S TURNED FALSE INSTEAD OF A FALSE LOVE TURNING TRUE!
Yes yes. I'll go swifter than the wind.
I'll put the potion on his eyes myself.
NOW GO FIND HELENA OF ATHENA AND BRING HER HERE!
Hermia!
Hail!
Hail!

Oh, you're good!
AREN'T MY TEARS PROOF ENOUGH OF MY SINCERITY?
WHY DO YOU THINK I WOO IN JEST?
Ah!
Found em!
Come over here
You're not using any now either!
I wasn't using sound judgment when I made promises to her
Are these the promises that won you Hermia?
Demetrius?
Eh?
thunk

http://www.nightexile.gjb.net

OH, HELENA!
GOD-DESS
NYMPH
FLAWLESS ANGEL!
I WISH TO KISS YOUR FAIR WHITE HAND FOR ALL ETERNITY
YOU MAY LOOK LIKE GENTLEMEN, BUT YOU'RE NOTHING OF THE SORT! IF YOU WERE, YOU'D NEVER MAKE FUN OF A LADY FOR SPORT!
You two have conspired to make a fool of me for your amusement!
I KNEW YOU HATED ME, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE IT THIS FAR!
I get it now so that's the way it is, huh?

I LOVE HER NO MORE.
LYSANDER, TAKE YOUR HERMIA AND BE HAPPY.
AS SUCH, YIELD TO ME HELENA'S
DEMETRIUS, I YIELD TO YOU HERMIA'S LOVE.
Lysander
THE REASON I LEFT YOU IS THAT I HATE YOU.
KNOW THIS
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND?
THAT CAN'T BE.
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?

* Oberon's Jewish because I say so damn it! - Emily

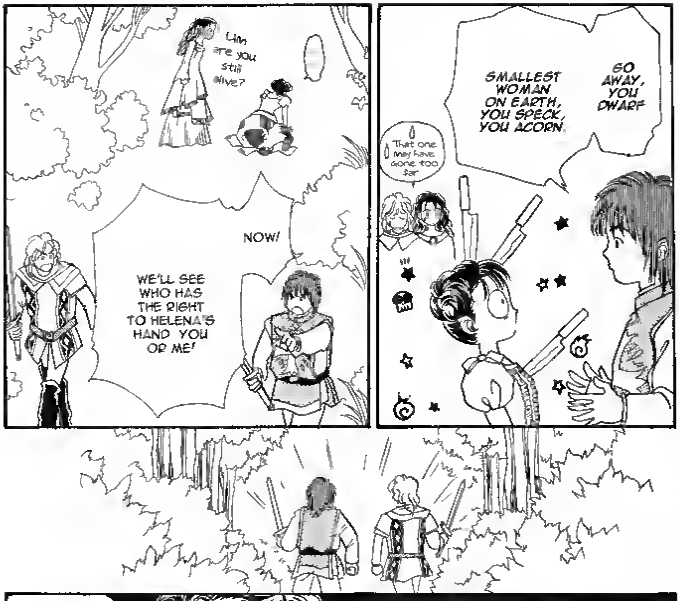
Oy vey!
YOU THREE ARE ALL IN ON THE CONSPIRACY, AND YOU COOKED UP THIS PLAY JUST TO TORMENT ME!
I SEE...
shake
WILL YOU BREAK OUR BONDS BY JOINING WITH THESE MEN TO MOCK YOUR POOR FRIEND?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE VOWS OF SISTER-HOOD WE TOOK?
OUR SCHOOL YARD FRIENDSHIP AND CHILDHOOD INNOCENCE?
YOU'RE TOO CRUEL, HERMIA!
OH? ARE YOU FEIGNING IGNORANCE TO CONTINUE THIS LOVELY JOKE OF YOURS?
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU'RE MOCKING ME, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND
WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?

YOU ARE MY LOVE, MY LIFE!
FAIR HELENA!
NOT SO! HELENA, I LOVE YOU MORE THAN THIS LOUT EVER COULD!
That's it. I'm leaving. And whether I die or just go I don't intend to see any of you again
Wait, Helena hear me out!
BRING IT ON!
YOU SAY THAT, BUT WHY DON'T YOU PROVE IT?
Lysander
You're joking, right?
IN TRUTH I WANTED TO HAVE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACE AGAIN
I'M NOT JOKING I HATE YOU
Honey?
I LOVE HELENA.
YOU CAT, YOU PEST! YOU LOATHED WOMAN!
LET ME GO!

#night_exile@ rc irchighway net

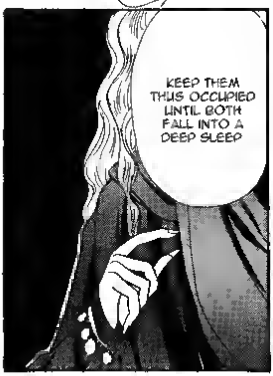
I SEE IT ALL NOW! YOU MADE A COMPARISON BETWEEN OUR STATURES AND USED YOUR HEIGHT* TO TAKE HIS HEART FROM ME!
HISS
I MAY BE "SHORT" AND "LITTLE" AS YOU SAY, BUT MY NAILS CAN STILL REACH YOUR EYES!
glare
DID YOU STEAL HIM DURING THE NIGHT AND TOOK MY LOVE'S HEART FROM ME?
YOU THIEF OF LOVE!
STOMP
STOMP
WHEN SHE'S MAD AND ENRAGED SHE'S QUICK WITH HER HANDS HER TEMPER IS FEARSOME
Even if she is short.
What's the deal? Are you just going to sit there and let her make a fool out of me?
Let me GO!
AGAIN WITH THE short!
DON'T LET HER HURT ME!
HEY!
CLENCH
I'M JUST A WEAK, DEFENSELESS MAIDEN!

*This whole "height" issue is the crux of the logic of the couples casting of this chapter. In MSND Helena has to be a good deal taller than Hermia in order to make this scene work. One more thing in case anyone cares: Helena is supposed to call Hermia a "puppet" before she starts this whole height rant, making her a bit more rational in the original. – **Emily**


Lian, are you still alive?
NOW!
WE'LL SEE WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO HELENA'S HAND YOU OR ME!
That one may have gone too far!
SMALLEST WOMAN ON EARTH, YOU SPECK, YOU ACORN.
GO AWAY, YOU DWARF

I DON'T TRUST YOU ANYMORE
THIS WHOLE THING IS YOUR FAULT.

*This is one of my all-time favorite lines EVER, so I kept it that way. What Herm is actually saying, though, is "What just happened? I don't understand it at all." - **Emily**

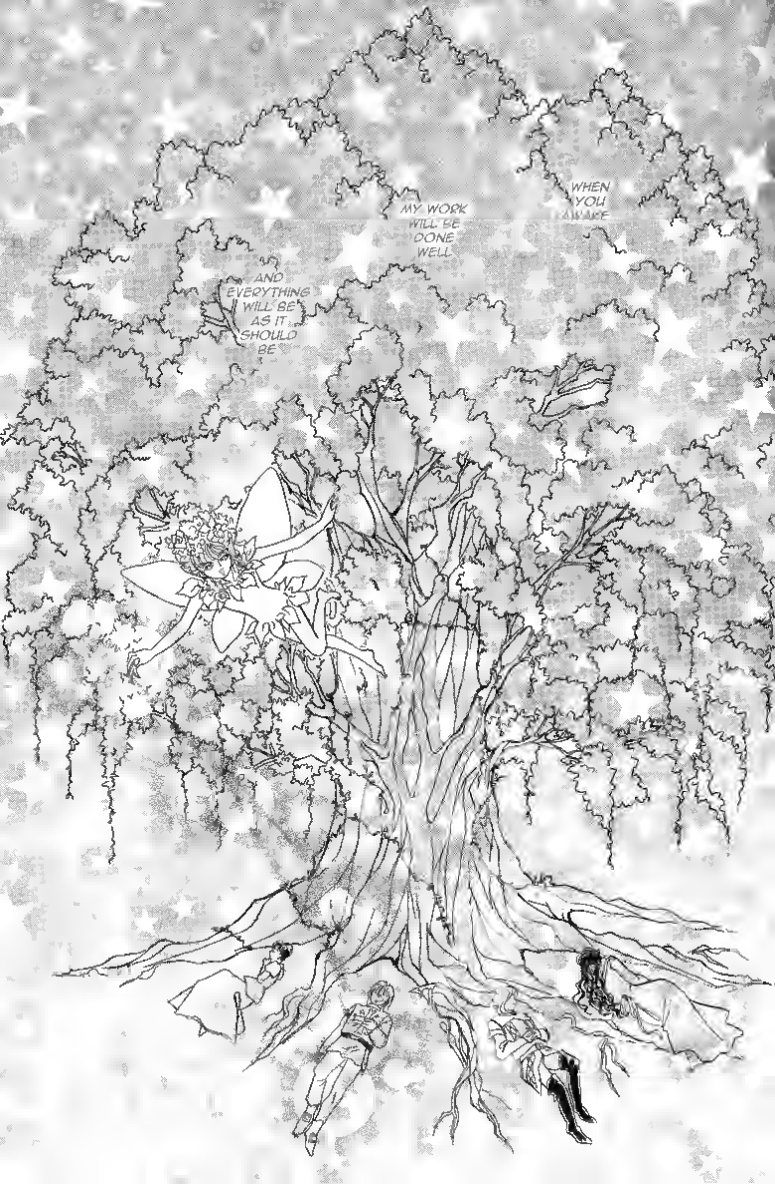


THE MEN ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO FIGHT
THEREFORE, PUCK,
QUICKLY MAKE THE NIGHT PITCH BLACK, AND LEAD THESE TWO RIVALS FOR LOVE ASTRAY
KEEP THEM APART AND LEAD THEM ON

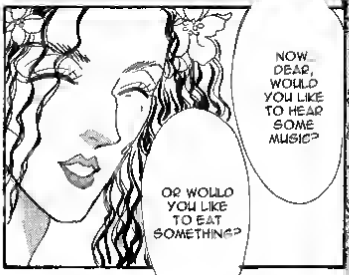
THEN CRUSH THIS HERB INTO LYSANDER'S EYES
THIS SHOULD CURE HIM OF THE ENCHANTMENT AND LET HIM SEE WITH HIS OWN EYES AGAIN
I LEAVE THIS JOB TO YOU, PUCK
HURRY AND DO IT BEFORE THE RAYS OF DAWN ARRIVE!
http://www.nightexile.sjb.net

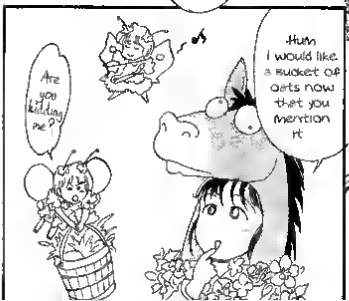
*Again, original MSND - Emily

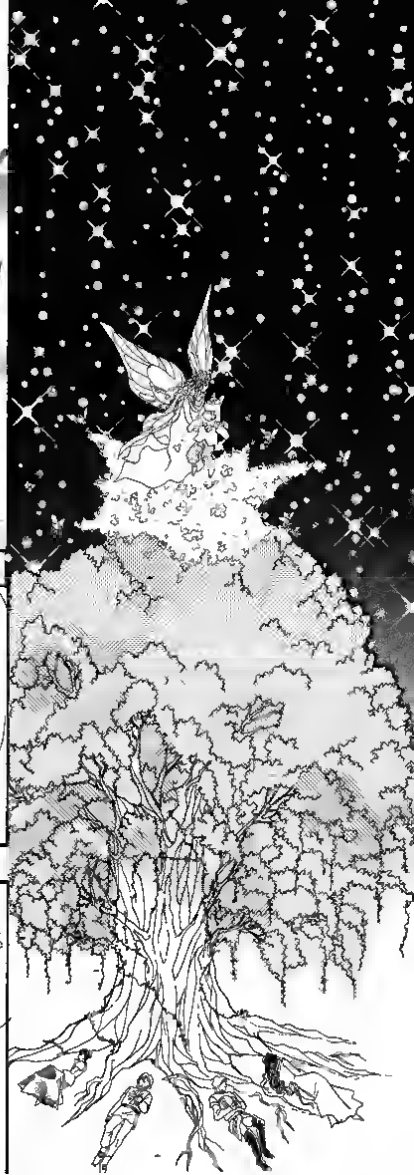
SLEEP SOUND ON THE GROUND
I've never been this tired or this sad before
I can't crawl any further
I can't go any further
Only three?
That leaves one more.

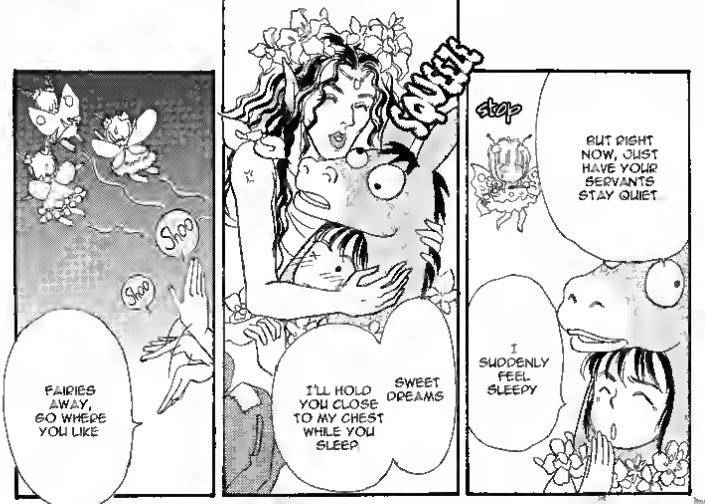

WHEN YOU AWAKE
MY WORK WILL BE DONE WELL
AND EVERYTHING WILL BE AS IT SHOULD BE

COME, SIT DOWN ON THE FLOWER-STREWN GROUND.
AND I'LL KISS YOUR FAIR EARS


NOW, DEAR, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR SOME MUSIC?
OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT SOMETHING?


-Hum I would like a bucket of oats now that you mention it
Are you kidding me?





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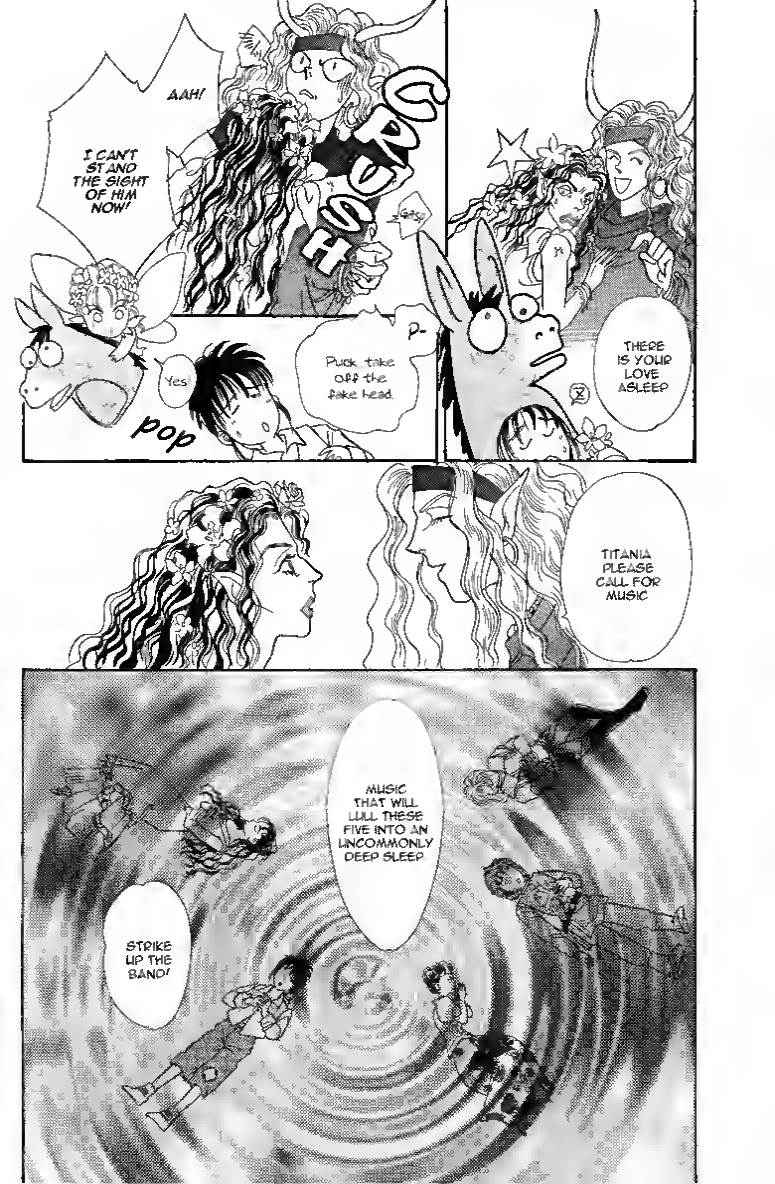
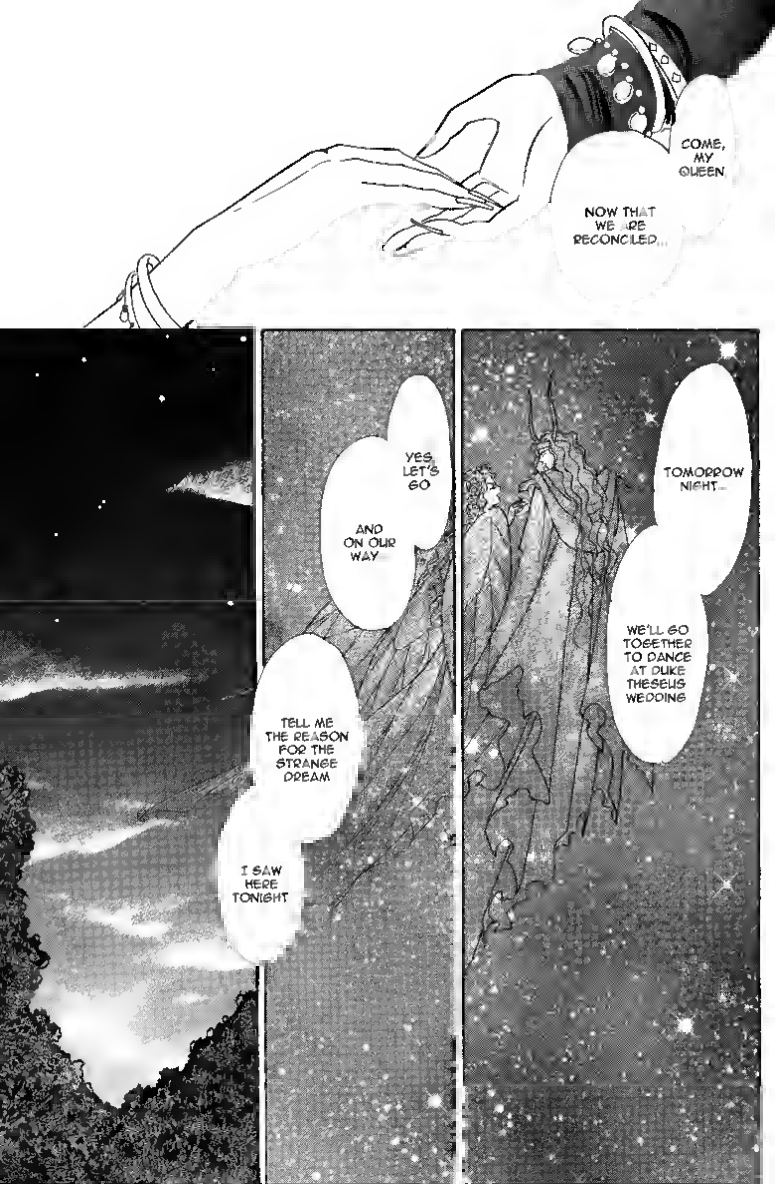
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS SCENE?
I'M BACK!
I'M STARTING TO PITY HER DOTAGE
H, PUCK
AFTER THAT SHE MEEKLY ASKED FOR MY FORGIVENESS
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST, I MET HER LOOKING FOR FLOWERS TO PRESENT TO THAT ASS AND I ACCIDENTLY INSULTED HER. AND WE GOT INTO A FIGHT
AND SHE IMMEDIATELY CONSENTED AND HAD THE BOY BROUGHT TO MY QUARTERS
I THEN ASKED HER FOR THE CHANGELING CHILD
Lover's Lane

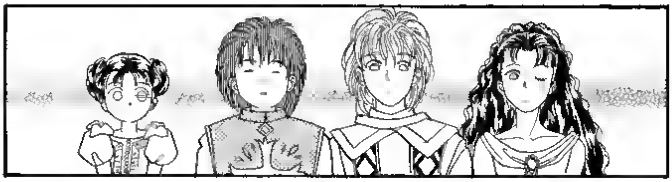
OPEN YOUR EYES, AND SEE AS YOU WOULD WISH TO SEE.
NOW, MY BELOVED QUEEN...
NOW THAT I HAVE WHAT I WANT
Soon I'LL RELEASE HER FROM MY SPELL..
What a jerk!
I WAS HAVING A DREAM
And a strange one at that
I THOUGHT I WAS IN LOVE...
with an ass
AH! OBERON!

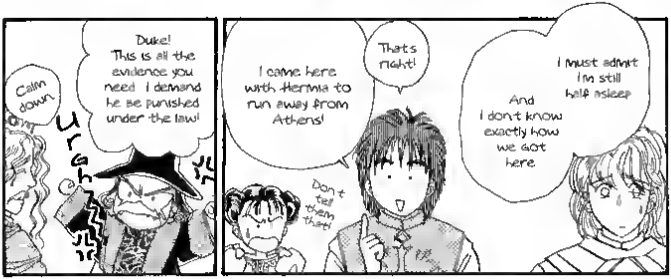

AAH!
I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF HIM NOW!
CRASH
Pardon
Puck take off the fake head.
Yes
pop
THERE IS YOUR LOVE ASLEEP
TITANIA PLEASE CALL FOR MUSIC
MUSIC THAT WILL LULL THESE FIVE INTO AN UNCOMMONLY DEEP SLEEP.
STRIKE UP THE BAND!


COME, MY QUEEN
NOW THAT WE ARE RECONCILED...
TOMORROW NIGHT...
WE'LL GO TOGETHER TO DANCE AT DUKE THESEUS WEDDING
YES, LET'S GO
AND ON OUR WAY
TELL ME THE REASON FOR THE STRANGE DREAM
I SAW HERE TONIGHT

rustle
rustle
Whoosh
rustle
rustle
Whoosh
!!
?
?
?
?

GOOD MORNING, LITTLE FOREST CHICKS
Ahem!
It's the Duke!
Please there's no need to kneel
But
YOU TWO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RIVALS FOR LOVE HOW IS IT THAT YOU CAN SLEEP SO CLOSE TOGETHER?




I must admit I'm still half asleep
And I don't know exactly how we got here
That's right!
I came here with Hermia to run away from Athens!
Don't tell them that!
Duke! This is all the evidence you need I demand he be punished under the law!
Calm down
Urgh

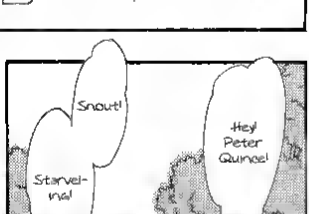
THOSE TWO WERE GOING TO ELOPE...
AND OUTWIT THE TWO OF US, DEMETRIUS
Duke the truth is
I HAD HEARD FROM FAIR HELENA THAT THOSE TWO WERE PLANNING TO MEET IN THE WOODS
ENGAGED I CHASED THEM TO THE WOODS...
AND HELENA FOLLOWED ME HERE.
IN TRUTH, I DON'T KNOW BY WHAT POWER
BUT
BY SOME POWER NONETHELESS

ALL MY LOVE BELONGS TO HELENA
MY LOVE FOR HERMIA MELTED LIKE THE SNOW...
AND NOW, AND FOREVER...
Grr~~ht
YOUNG LOVERS, WE WILL HEAR THE TALES OF YOUR ADVENTURES SOMETIME SOON.
COME LET'S ALL GO BACK TO ATHENS
Hoho

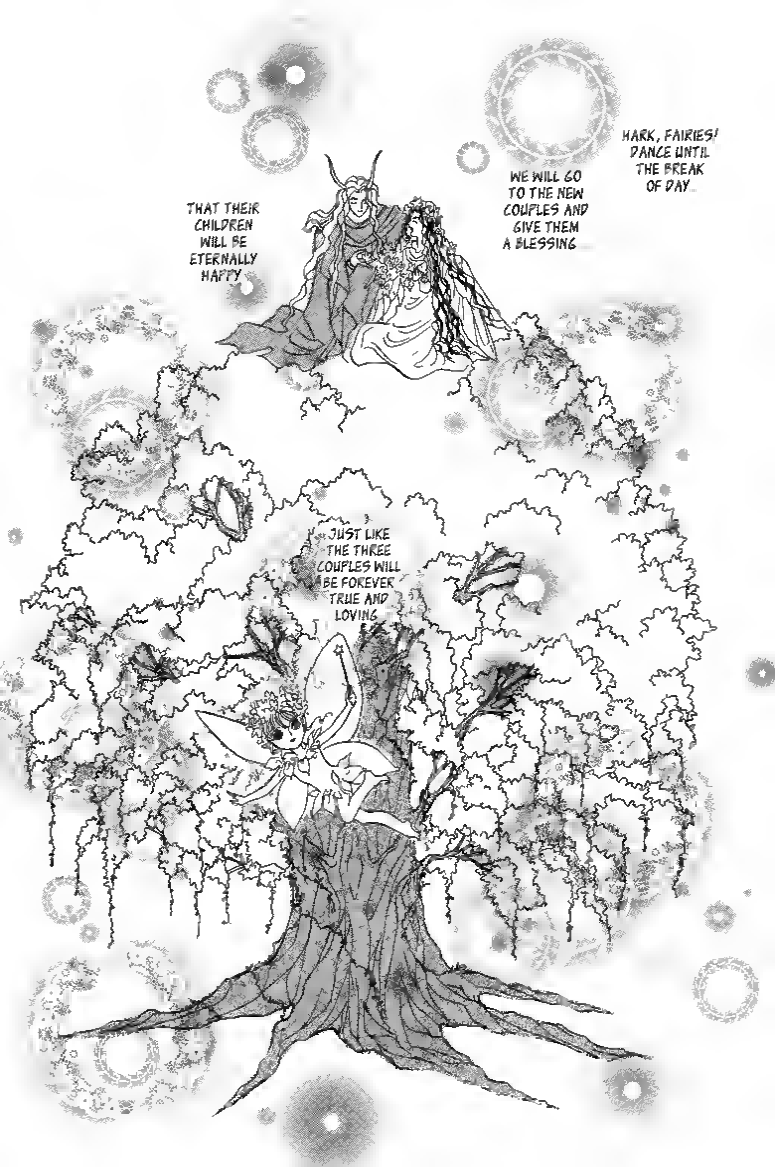
UPON OUR RETURN, WE THREE COUPLES WILL BE JOINED TOGETHER IN MATRIMONY
How could this have happened?
You haven't seen the last of me!

And they all lived happily ever

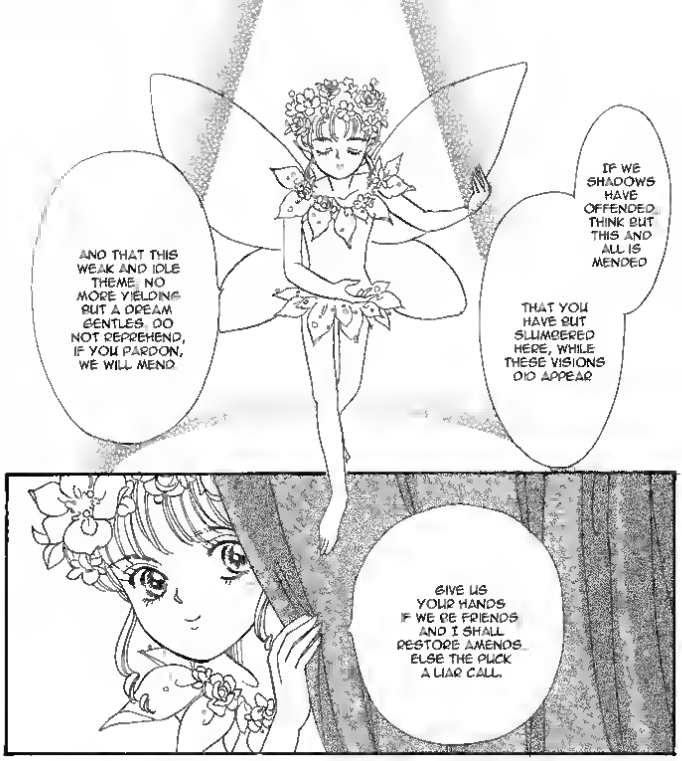
*The play "Pyramus and Thisby" that Bottom and his clowns were rehearsing to perform before the Duke and Duchess at their wedding has a plot similar to "Romeo and Juliet." The reason I'm including this extra skit, however, is that I'm pretty sure the "her" referred to in the original MSND text isn't Thisby, but Hippolyta. The joke in this case being that Bottom is thinking of performing the song of his dream as a wedding present but reconsiders thinking that the death of his wife will be a more joyous occasion for Theseus than his wedding. -Emily



I KNOW! I'LL GET PETER QUINCE TO WRITE MY DREAM INTO A SONG
I SAW SOME WONDROUS VISIONS
That's right
No to make it even more gracious..
I'll sing it at Thisby's death!*
mumble
mumble
AND I'LL SING IT AT THE END OF A PLAY THAT WE WILL DO FOR THE DUKE!
BUT THE DREAM I SAW WAS BEYOND THE WIT OF MAN TO UNDERSTAND IT WAS A DREAM LIKE NONE BEFORE HAVE EVER BEEN


HARK, FAIRIES! DANCE UNTIL THE BREAK OF DAY.
WE WILL GO TO THE NEW COUPLES AND GIVE THEM A BLESSING.
THAT THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE ETERNALLY HAPPY.
JUST LIKE THE THREE COUPLES WILL BE FOREVER TRUE AND LOVING.

N- no, I would never...Audrey! It was in the script
I can't believe you called me "short"!
You're so mean!
Extra
Congratulations!
Well done!
M- Miss Celia... I just want you to know that all those mean things I said to you... I didn't mean any of them
It's alright Oliver
The truth is I kinda liked the cool way you acted.
This is cruel and unusual punishment, boss!
My part was miniscule!
As long as we're talking about that I'm not quite sure about the part you had me play
I mean the whole love triangle thing
Ok, Jack I give up already.
There's one more job for you to do.
Roger!
Now, now!


IF WE SHADOWS HAVE OFFENDED, THINK BUT THIS AND ALL IS MENDED
THAT YOU HAVE BUT SLUMBERED HERE, WHILE THESE VISIONS DID APPEAR
AND THAT THIS WEAK AND IDLE THEME, NO MORE YIELDING BUT A DREAM GENTLES. DO NOT REPREHEND, IF YOU PARDON, WE WILL MEND.
GIVE US YOUR HANDS IF WE BE FRIENDS AND I SHALL RESTORE AMENDS. ELSE THE PUCK A LIAR CALL.

Special Performance ◆ End

*I took some creative license with the order of the lines here to make it match up a bit better with the Japanese text. -Emily

Intermission · III

Hey Boss have you finished the new script yet?
MANAGER
Right
Potato chips
crack
crack
crack
I was just going to get started on that
BLAH
ALSO, BE SURE TO KEEP A SENSE OF THE SEASON IN THE PLAY AND INCLUDE TRENDY JOKES
ALSO, THE MAIN CHARACTER SHOULD BE A HANDSOME MAN, THE KIND THAT'S POPULAR NOWADAYS
BLAH
ADDITIONALY, ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE SPONSOR IS INTO THE OCCULT SO IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO USE WITCHES OR FAIRIES IN THE PLAY.
I know already!!
BLAH
WE CAN'T STAGE ANYTHING TOO INANE
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THE NEXT PERFORMANCE IS FOR THE EARL OF XXXXX'S WEDDING RECEPTION?
BLAH
ALSO, PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM A PLOT INVOLVING TRAGIC ROMANCE AND/OR REVENGE.
LASTLY, PLEASE MAKE SURE THERE'S A HAPPY ENDING.
I know!
Uh-huh
Anyway Boss, please work on this
I just went to get some inspiration from customer's conversations.
Th- that's ridiculous. That was research.
And it goes on like that By the way Boss... I hear you went barhopping again last night

Two weeks before the performance
Boss~
Are you done with the script yet!?
The actors need to learn their lines soon!
It's coming along fine.
I have a general idea of the story so all I have to do is sit down and write it.
Leave it to me!!
scratch
One week before the performance
Boss ~~
OK, let's just re-use some of our old ones. The audience won't notice anything.
Oh, right. the costumes
We haven't even worked out the costumes yet!! Do you understand the situation we're in!?
Boss!!
That's it just give me what you have done and I'll go copy it
YANK
Finally, the night of the performance.
All right, be quiet already. I'm writing, I'm writing!!
Hurry and finish writing the script!!
Boss~~!! The curtain's up!!
scratch
scratch

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* AHAHAA!!! EHEHEE!! XD That's just like Eh << *hides* ^^
-ScarletxD

カーテンコール

Curtain Call

Hello, this is Akino.
Thank you for reading "Okini Mesu Mama" Volume 2.
This time, I'd like to introduce you to my personal views on theater, recommend some theater troupes, things like that.

Hanagumi Plays - All the members are male. The female roles are, of course, played by female impersonators. They put on plays like the ones from Kyoka Izumi and Shakespeare, plays where some parts are comedic, but others are really and truly aesthetic. It's maybe a bit more like a male Takarazuka troupe than like kabuki. They helped me out at Chairman Kano's discussion.♡

For starters, whenever they have public performances in the Kanto region, I always go see "Hanagumi Plays" and "Theater ShinKANsen*". Honestly, I must've b☆n following these two for seven or eight years by now. These days they use the Sunshine Theater or the Globe, places with lots of seating, but back then it was Jyan-Jyan, and The Suzunari, and Theater/Taps. (←They didn't have actual chairs for seating, just stair-stepped floors that you had to sit on, P.E. style; it made your bum pretty sore.),

These two groups were my first contact with so-called "small theater troupes". Then, sometimes, when I can get tickets, I go to see Third Stage, and Nylon 100C, and Tsukokouhei and Nada MAP. It's pretty hard, though, getting tickets... Lately there are theater broadcasts on satellite TV, or late at night on commercial channels, so if you get the chance, check 'em out. While I'm on the subject, if anyone happened to record the "Vamp Show" (a school vampire comedy in which current heartthrobs Masahiko Nishimura (from Sunshine Boys) and Arata Kauta (from ShinKANsen) appeared) which was broadcast three or four years back on WOWOW, would you please send a copy of it to Akino? I'm serious. ;

Theater ☆ ShinKANsen - Originally a "Tsukokouhei" copy troupe. Recently they've sort of exploded into this powerful, original world that's a fusion of rock and comedy. Some of the players, like Aki Hano-chan and Master Arata Kouta, are active on TV as well.

*The name of this Group is a pun, the word "Shinkansen" means express train and they've changed the middle kanji so the yomikata is the same but instead of "express train" the meaning would be something along the lines of "New Feeling Line." Ah the joys of puns in other languages
-SakkaOnna

Y'know, small theater groups... If I were going to put it bluntly, I'd have to say they're a bit like manga doujinshi circles. At first, they're just made up of friends who like the same things; they put on whatever plays they like, and everyone doubles up on the script writing and directing and roles. (In manga, they'd double up on drawing and editing and selling.) Soon, they pick up some steady fans and call in people who want to act in plays with them, or guests from other theater groups (or are called on themselves by other groups in the same way). As their number of dedicated stagehands increases, and the theater capacity grows, they begin to handle more money; once that happens, they can't really keep on putting on whatever they want however they want, and the number of set pieces of which they, as a working theater, have to keep a bare minimum increases as well. Kabuki and the Shiki Theater Company are pretty formal (?) now, but I bet they were something similar back when they started...

When I was younger, I never had much interest in kabuki. Or rather, the lines were all in classical speech, and I couldn't understand a thing they said; I'm pretty sure it was also partly because the plays they dragged us to in school for theater appreciation were the boring ones. Things like that tend to prejudice a person.

With shows like Kankurou Nakamura-san's domestic plays, the stories are easy to understand, and when they're ad-libbing they stick in jokes and such, and you can't just shrug off those flashy production effects (like building a pool on stage and having a mass fight scene in it) or the quick-changes, either. Sometimes a single actor will play two roles in the same play one male role and one female role, even . They're just full of crowd-pleasing things, all around.

Besides, anyone born and raised in Japan should go and see Tamasaburou-san at least once while he's beautiful. The real guy.*

* I'm not quite sure which Tamasaburou she's referring to here - the name itself is inherited, passed down from master to his best student. The guy specializes in onna gata (women's) roles though, which is why "beautiful" is important. ^_^ ~SakkaOnna

The best contrast to kabuki's all male casts and hereditary system has to be Takarazuka...*

Every year, a group of several dozen new members has to pass an extremely tough test to get in, then spend about ten years near the bottom of the heap, and even after that only four or five are able to become top stars (since there are four groups)! Not to mention that, since both the upper and lower ranks (senior and junior members) are jam-packed, the longest they can hold that seat is three or four years; sometimes it's a mere eight months. The life of a flower is truly fleeting. Apparently there are a lot of people who think "Erm~~ I'm not too sure about that pancake makeup..." and steer clear of them, but it is a world of entertainment, after all, far removed from the real one. It's guaranteed that you'll be able to enjoy it without thinking too hard about anything, so definitely make your way to the theater at least once.

In kabuki and in plays from Shakespeare's era, you can have complicated stuff like two men playing a love scene, or a man who is playing a woman disguise her(him)self as a man during the play, and of course that's interesting. In Takarazuka, of course, all the players are women; then, when you've got the ladies who act men's parts and are usually more manly (?) than your average guy crossdressing as girls in the play, or a role like that of Oscar-sama in "The Rose of Versailles", where the part itself actually that of "a girl disguised as a guy"----Well, that just doubles or trebles the topsy-turvyness. Parenthetically, when they had two "male" players in tailcoats dancing the bolero, I was so at a lass as to whether it was a lesbian scene or a gay scene that I got all dizzy.♡

* The name-getting-handed-down thing I mentioned in the last note -SakkaOnna

** The kanji she's used for "lesbian" is "yuri" (lily) which is the term for the lesbian counterpart of yaoi; the kanji she's used for "gay" is "bara" (rose) and I've never seen it used in that sense before. If anyone's curious ^_^b -SakkaOnna

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*I can't find confirmation, but judging from birth dates and similarity in names, I'm pretty sure this is a father-son team.
~SakkaOnna*